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MYSTERY IN SPACE

"The WIZARD of the COSMOS"

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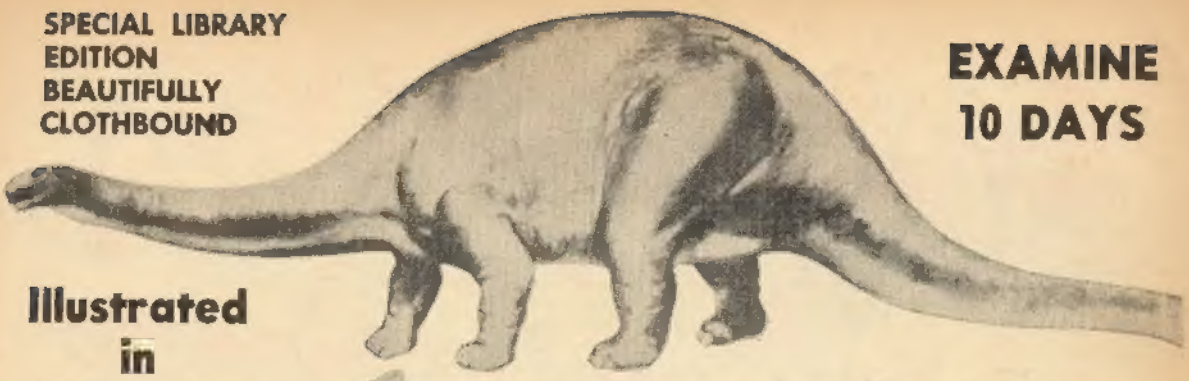

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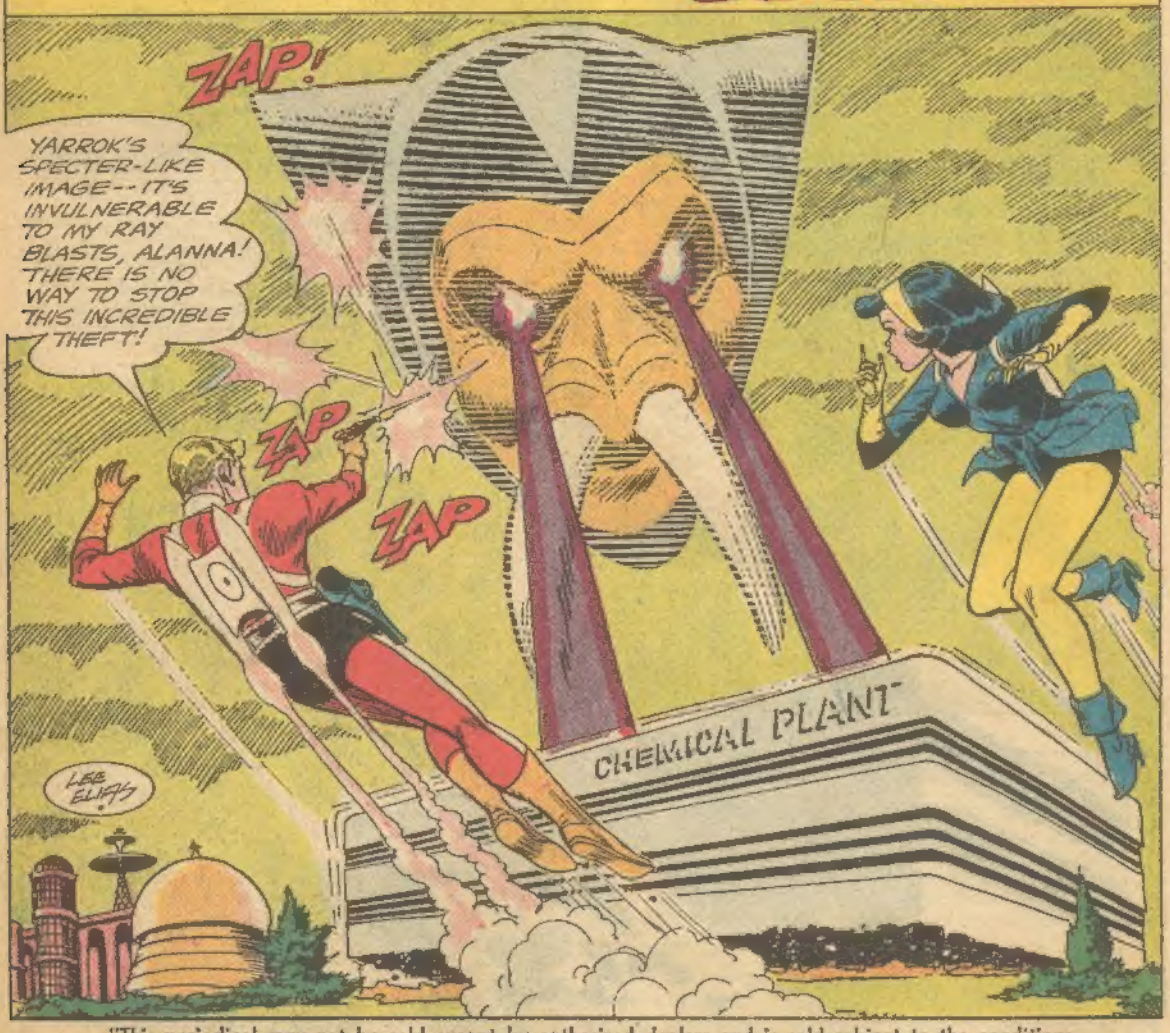
ADAM STRANGE

MEET YARROK OF ZULKAN, MASTER OF MYSTERY IN THE STAR-SUN SYSTEM OF ALPHA CENTAURI! YARROK OF ZULKAN, WHO HAD SEARCHED THE UNEXPLORED DEPTHS OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM TO DISCOVER AMAZING ELEMENTS AND PROPERTIES POSSESSING UNBELIEVABLE POWERS--POWERS WITH WHICH TO PLUNDER THE PLANET RANN... DESTROY ITS EARTHLING CHAMPION, ADAM STRANGE... AND MAKE YARROK OF ZULKAN...

the WIZARD of the COSMOS


ZAP!
YARROK'S SPECTER-LIKE IMAGE--IT'S INVULNERABLE TO MY RAY BLASTS, ALANNA! THERE IS NO WAY TO STOP THIS INCREDIBLE THEFT!
ZAP
ZAP
CHEMICAL PLANT
LEE ELIAS

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AS HURRICANE WINDS LASH THE COASTAL VILLAGE OF FORTALEZA, BRAZIL, ALL SAVE ONE SEEK THE SAFETY OF HIGHER GROUND--EARTH ARCHEOLIGIST ADAM STRANGE...
LOOK.. THE AMERICAN FLEES UP THE BEACH! HE WILL SURELY PERISH!
THEY SAY HE IS ALWAYS KEEPING A MYSTERIOUS RENDEZVOUS! PERHAPS, THIS TIME, IT WILL BE WITH DEATH!...
THE WORDS SEEM PROPHETIC, AS MOMENTS LATER, AROUND A BEND IN THE SHORE...
ROAR-R
A-A TIDAL WAVE... RACING ME TO MY ZETA-BEAM CONTACT POINT! AND ONLY SECONDS TO GO!
SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE WALL OF WATER AND THE ZETA-BEAM FROM ACROSS 25 TRILLION MILES OF SPACE HIT ADAM...
...THREE... TWO... ONE... ZERO! MADE IT!
INSTANTLY, THE EARTH-MAN IS TRANSPORTED TO THE PLANET RANN OF THE STAR SUN ALPHA CENTAURI...
WHERE, AS USUAL, HIS RANAGAR SWEET-HEART, ALANNA, IS AWAITING HIM...
WHEW! I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT, HONEY! ALL PACKED AND READY TO GO ON THE TRIP WE PLANNED?
SOON AS YOU GET OUT OF YOUR WET CLOTHES AND CHANGE TO YOUR UNIFORM, DARLING!
HOP IN -- PLANET ZULKAN AWAITS US! AND I WISH I COULD SAY AS MUCH FOR THE PERSON WE HOPE TO VISIT!
I KNOW THIS YARROK HAS QUITE A REPUTATION AS AN ECCENTRIC, ALANNA...

CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE FOLLOWING.

AS SEEN ON YOUR TV SCREEN!

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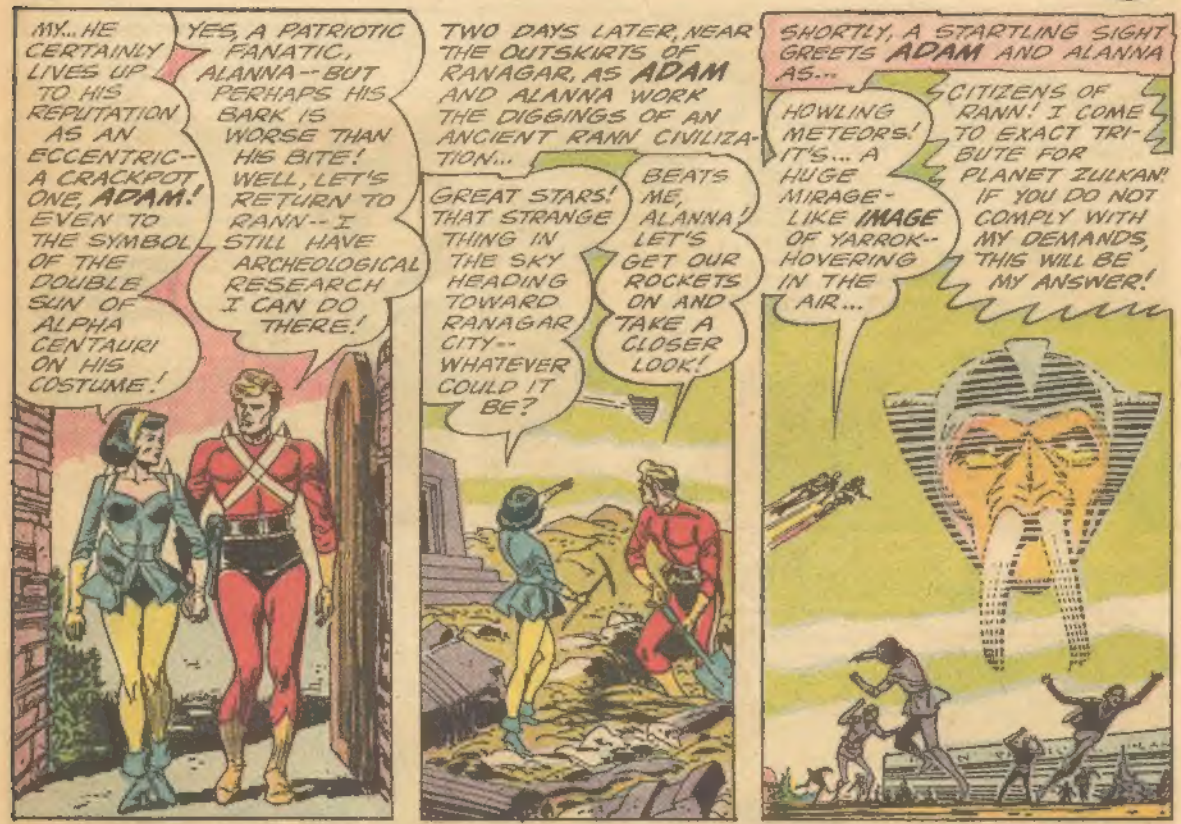
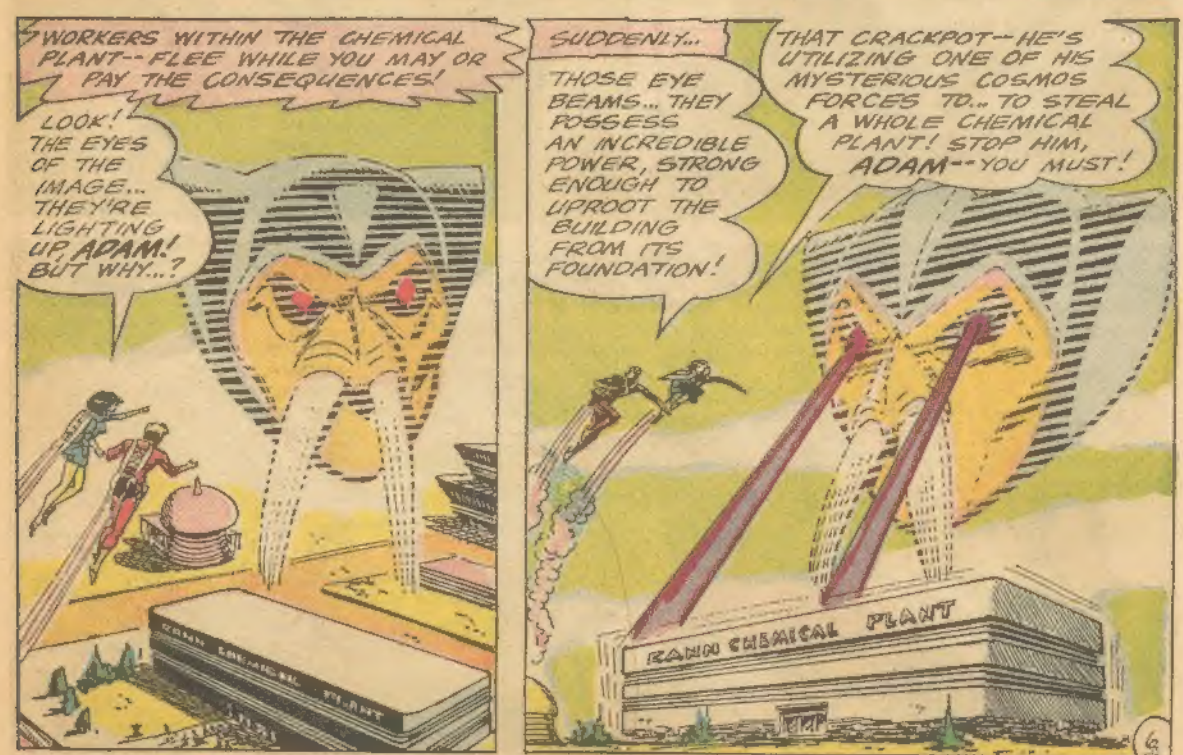
BUT HE'S EXPLORED EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THIS VAST SOLAR SYSTEM—PLANETARY WILDS, WHERE NO CIVILIZED PERSON HAS EVER TROD..
THINK OF THE VAST KNOWLEDGE YARROK HAS GAINED— THE TREASURE HOUSE OF SECRETS HE CAN UNLOCK TO THE WORLD OF ARCHEOLOGY...
LET'S HOPE HE'LL OFFER YOU THE KEY, ADAM! WE'RE OFF!
LATER, AFTER THEIR SPACE-SHIP HAS LANDED ON ZULKAN, ONE OF RANN'S SISTER PLANETS...
THERE'S YARROK'S HOME... WHERE HE AND HIS FAMILY LIVE-- AND HIS PRIVATE LAB...
THE AUTHORITIES WARNED US THAT YARROK DOESN'T LIKE VISITORS...
SHORTLY...
HALT, STRANGERS! GET OFF MY LAND!
HMM... WE CERTAINLY AREN'T WELCOME!
YOU MUST BE ... YARROK! WE COME HERE ON A FRIENDLY VISIT... HOPING YOU'LL TELL US OF YOUR EXPLORATION FINDINGS...
SO! THEN I WILL OBLIGE YOU... IN A DEMONSTRATION!

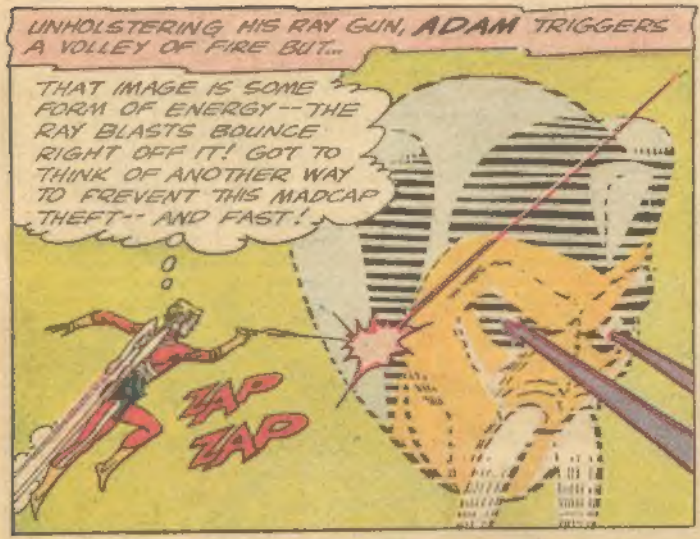
I DISCOVERED THESE RARE PLANTS ON THE PLANET TIRO... WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY'RE TREATED WITH KROTIUM K--A CHEMICAL I HAVE SYNTHESIZED..
SUDDENLY...
HA, HA, HA HO, HO, HO!
THE PLANTS.. FIRING A BARRAGE OF FIRE BALLS AT US! DUCK, ALANNA!
PUFF
PUFF
I FAIL TO SEE THE HUMOR, YARROK! THOSE MISSILES COULD HAVE BEEN DEADLY!
GOOD SHOOTING, ADAM!
ZAP
ZAP
AH, YES... ADAM STRANGE-- THE EARTHLING CHAMPION OF RANN!... YOU DARED TO DESTROY MY PLANTS! LET'S SEE HOW MUCH OF A CHAMPION YOU REALLY ARE...
YARROK HURLS A VIAL--AND AS IT SHATTERS...
HUH? A BIZARRE LIQUID.. SHOOTING ME ABRUPTLY INTO THE AIR...
AND WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO HURL YOU INTO OUTER SPACE!
4

I DON'T HAVE MY SPACE GEAR... I'LL PERISH OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE... AND MY ROCKET POWER CAN'T PULL ME OUT OF THIS... MAYBE A RAY BLAST WOULD WEAKEN THE FORCE...
BUT SUDDENLY...
HE'S DROPPING BACK... THANK THE STARS!.. HE CAN ROCKET DOWN SAFELY NOW!
OF COURSE! BECAUSE I'M NEUTRALIZING THE FORCE-- ACTUALLY AN ENERGY EMITTED FROM A CHEMICALLY TREATED LIQUID I DISCOVERED ON ASTEROID ARGONON!

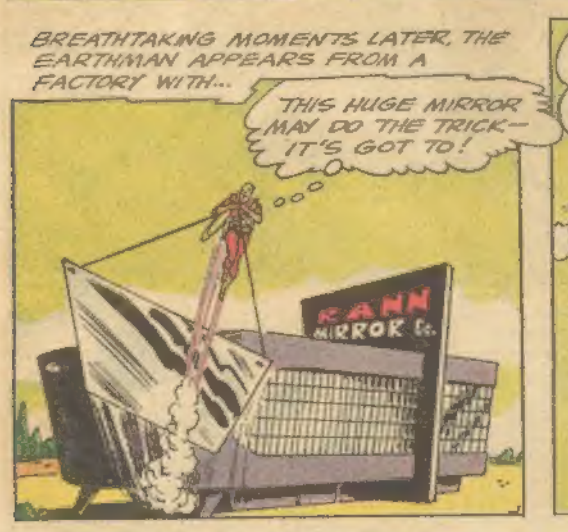
AND TO THINK I ADMIRED YOUR WORK, YARROK! WHY... YOU'RE USING YOUR GREAT DISCOVERIES TO PLAY GAMES.. DANGEROUS ONES...
GAMES? TESTS...TO FIND THE MEANS TO UTILIZE THESE UNIQUE, MYSTERIOUS PROPERTIES I HAVE DISCOVERED TO ADVANCE MY BACKWARD PLANET!
BACKWARD, BECAUSE GREEDY RANN WILL NOT SHARE HER NATURAL RESOURCES WITH MY PEOPLE!
YOU'RE TWISTING THE TRUTH, YARROK! RANN'S BEEN SHIPPING ZULKAN MINERALS... RAW MATERIALS! ALL HER INDUSTRY CAN HANDLE!
HMPH! WHAT LITTLE INDUSTRY THERE IS! BUT ZULKAN WILL BECOME AN INDUSTRIAL GIANT-- AND SOON! I WILL SEE TO THAT! OUR ENTIRE SUN SYSTEM WILL SOON HEED MY NAME, YARROK OF ZULKAN, WIZARD OF THE COSMOS! NOW, GO!

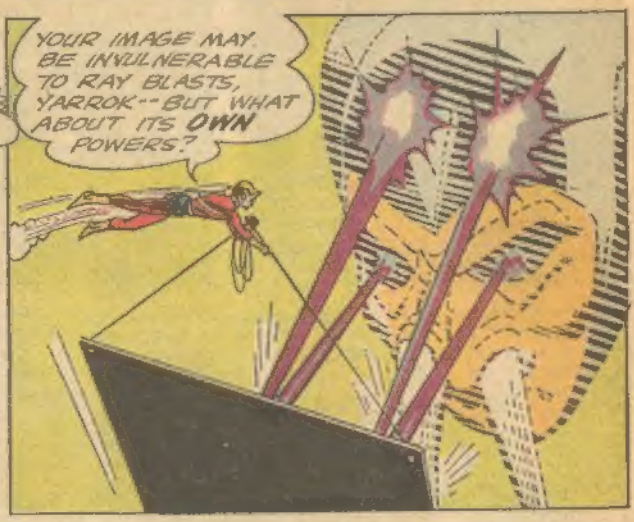

MY.. HE CERTAINLY LIVES UP TO HIS REPUTATION AS AN ECCENTRIC--A CRACKPOT ONE, ADAM! EVEN TO THE SYMBOL OF THE DOUBLE SUN OF ALPHA CENTAURI ON HIS COSTUME!
YES, A PATRIOTIC FANATIC, ALANNA--BUT PERHAPS HIS BARK IS WORSE THAN HIS BITE! WELL, LET'S RETURN TO RANN--I STILL HAVE ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH I CAN DO THERE!
TWO DAYS LATER, NEAR THE OUTSKIRTS OF RANAGAR, AS ADAM AND ALANNA WORK THE DIGGINGS OF AN ANCIENT RANN CIVILIZATION...
GREAT STARS! THAT STRANGE THING IN THE SKY HEADING TOWARD RANAGAR CITY--WHATEVER COULD IT BE?
BEATS ME, ALANNA! LET'S GET OUR ROCKETS ON AND TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!
SHORTLY, A STARTLING SIGHT GREETS ADAM AND ALANNA AS...
HOWLING METEORS! IT'S... A HUGE MIRAGE-LIKE IMAGE OF YARROK--HOVERING IN THE AIR...
CITIZENS OF RANN! I COME TO EXACT TRIBUTE FOR PLANET ZULKAN! IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH MY DEMANDS, THIS WILL BE MY ANSWER!

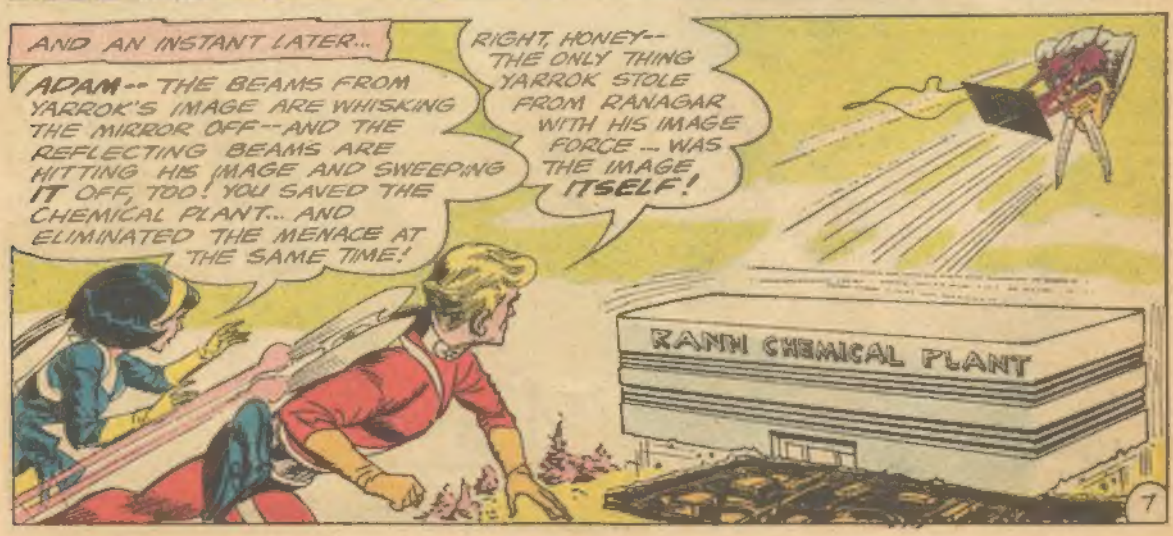

WORKERS WITHIN THE CHEMICAL PLANT--FLEE WHILE YOU MAY OR PAY THE CONSEQUENCES!
LOOK! THE EYES OF THE IMAGE.. THEY'RE LIGHTING UP, ADAM! BUT WHY..?
SUDDENLY...
THOSE EYE BEAMS... THEY POSSESS AN INCREDIBLE POWER, STRONG ENOUGH TO UPROOT THE BUILDING FROM ITS FOUNDATION!
THAT CRACKPOT--HE'S UTILIZING ONE OF HIS MYSTERIOUS COSMOS FORCES TO.. TO STEAL A WHOLE CHEMICAL PLANT! STOP HIM, ADAM--YOU MUST!
RANN CHEMICAL PLANT


UNHOLSTERING HIS RAY GUN, ADAM TRIGGERS A VOLLEY OF FIRE BUT...
THAT IMAGE IS SOME FORM OF ENERGY--THE RAY BLASTS BOUNCE RIGHT OFF IT! GOT TO THINK OF ANOTHER WAY TO PREVENT THIS MADCAP THEFT--AND FAST!
ZAP
ZAP

WAIT A MINUTE! MAYBE IT'S POSSIBLE TO TURN THE TABLES ON YARROK--KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
RANN

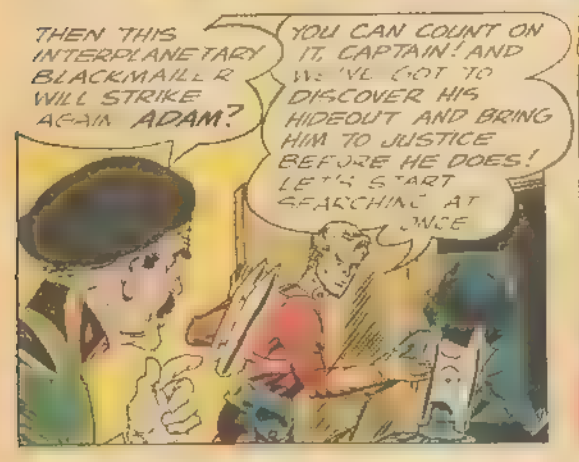

BREATHTAKING MOMENTS LATER, THE EARTHMAN APPEARS FROM A FACTORY WITH...
THIS HUGE MIRROR MAY DO THE TRICK--IT'S GOT TO!
RANN MIRROR Co.

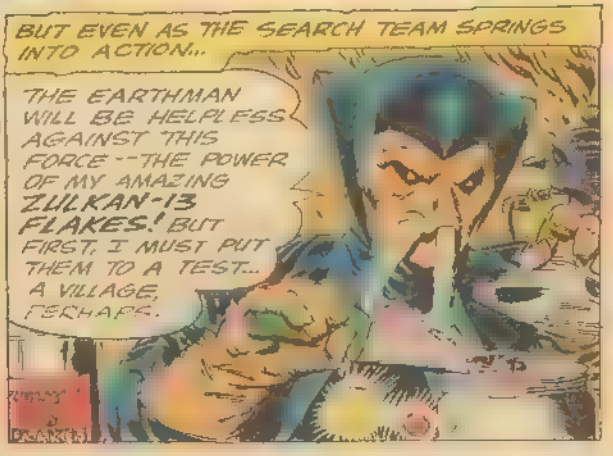

YOUR IMAGE MAY BE INVULNERABLE TO RAY BLASTS, YARROK--BUT WHAT ABOUT ITS OWN POWERS?

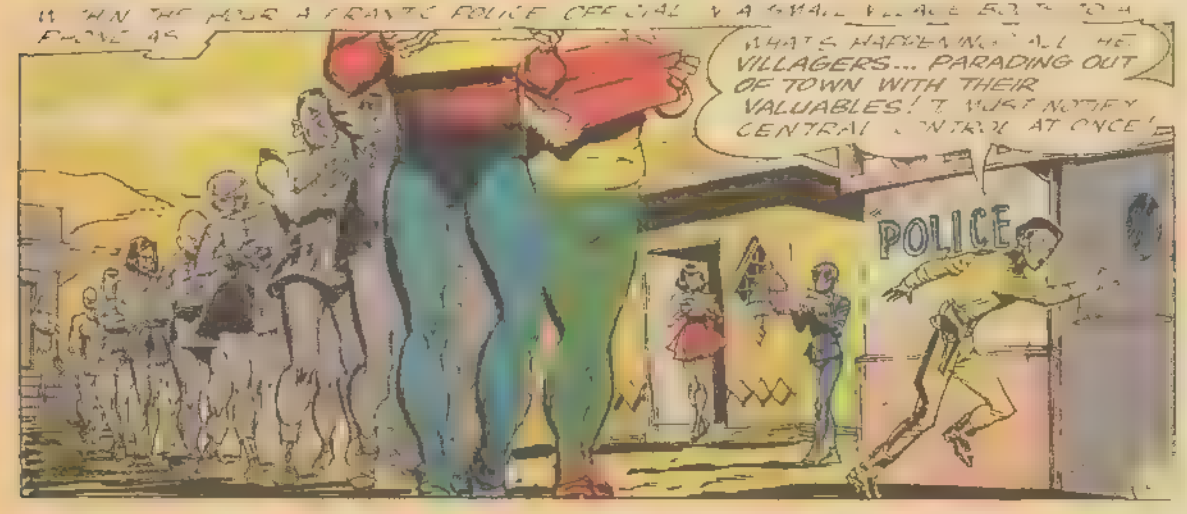

AND AN INSTANT LATER...
ADAM--THE BEAMS FROM YARROK'S IMAGE ARE WHISKING THE MIRROR OFF--AND THE REFLECTING BEAMS ARE HITTING HIS IMAGE AND SWEEPING IT OFF, TOO! YOU SAVED THE CHEMICAL PLANT... AND ELIMINATED THE MENACE AT THE SAME TIME!
RIGHT, HONEY--THE ONLY THING YARROK STOLE FROM RANAGAR WITH HIS IMAGE FORCE... WAS THE IMAGE ITSELF!
RANN CHEMICAL PLANT

BUT THIS ACTION BY YARROK PROVES THAT HE'S LOST HIS SENSES! WE'D BETTER CONTACT THE ZULKAN AUTHORITIES AT ONCE AND HAVE HIM ARRESTED!

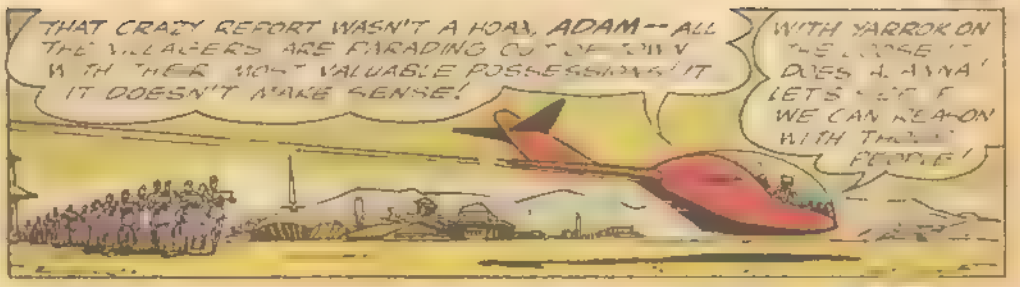
BUT SHORTLY AT THE SPACE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, A VOICE OVER A LOUD-SPEAKER SOUNDS ADAM...
YARROK'S LAB HAS DISAPPEARED FROM ITS GROUNDS! NOTHING BUT HIS FAMILY AND HOME REMAIN!
OF COURSE! YARROK MUST HAVE MOVED HIS ENTIRE LAB TO RANN IN SECRECY- TO LAUNCH HIS PLUNDER CAMPAIGN FROM HERE!


THEN THIS INTERPLANETARY BLACKMAILER WILL STRIKE AGAIN ADAM?
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT, CAPTAIN! AND WE'VE GOT TO DISCOVER HIS HIDEOUT AND BRING HIM TO JUSTICE BEFORE HE DOES! LET'S START SEARCHING AT ONCE!

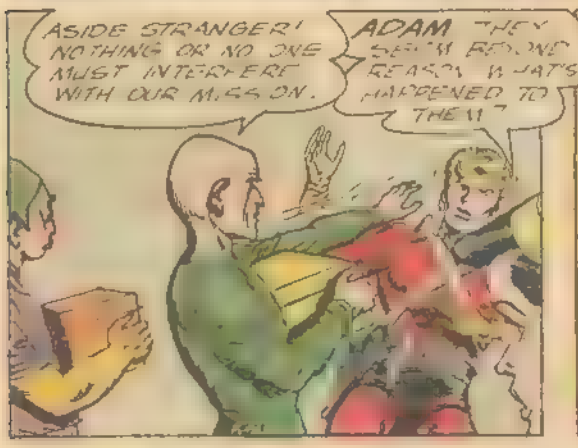

BUT EVEN AS THE SEARCH TEAM SPRINGS INTO ACTION...
THE EARTHMAN WILL BE HELPLESS AGAINST THIS FORCE--THE POWER OF MY AMAZING ZULKAN-13 FLAKES! BUT FIRST, I MUST PUT THEM TO A TEST... A VILLAGE, PERHAPS.

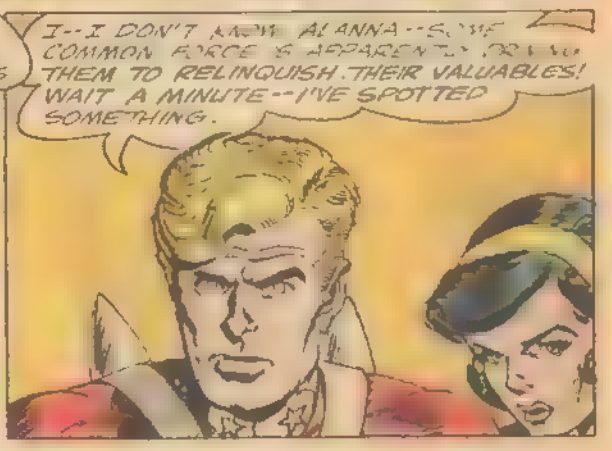

WHEN THE HEAD ATRANTE POLICE OFFICIAL IN A SMALL VILLAGE GOES TO A PHONE AS
WHAT'S HAPPENING? ALL THE VILLAGERS... PARADING OUT OF TOWN WITH THEIR VALUABLES! I MUST NOTIFY CENTRAL CONTROL AT ONCE!
POLICE

TWENTY FRANTIC MINUTES LATER, AS ADAM AND ALANNA RESPOND TO THE STARTLING REPORT..


THAT CRAZY REPORT WASN'T A HOAX, ADAM -- ALL THE VILLAGERS ARE PARADING OUT OF TOWN WITH THEIR MOST VALUABLE POSSESSIONS! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
WITH YARROK ON THE LOOSE! DOES ALANNA LET'S GET IT WE CAN REASON WITH THESE PEOPLE!

FOLKS -- GET A GRIP ON YOURSELVES! I -- I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO WITH YOUR MONEY AND JEWELS -- BUT GO BACK TO YOUR VILLAGE! THINK IT OVER.

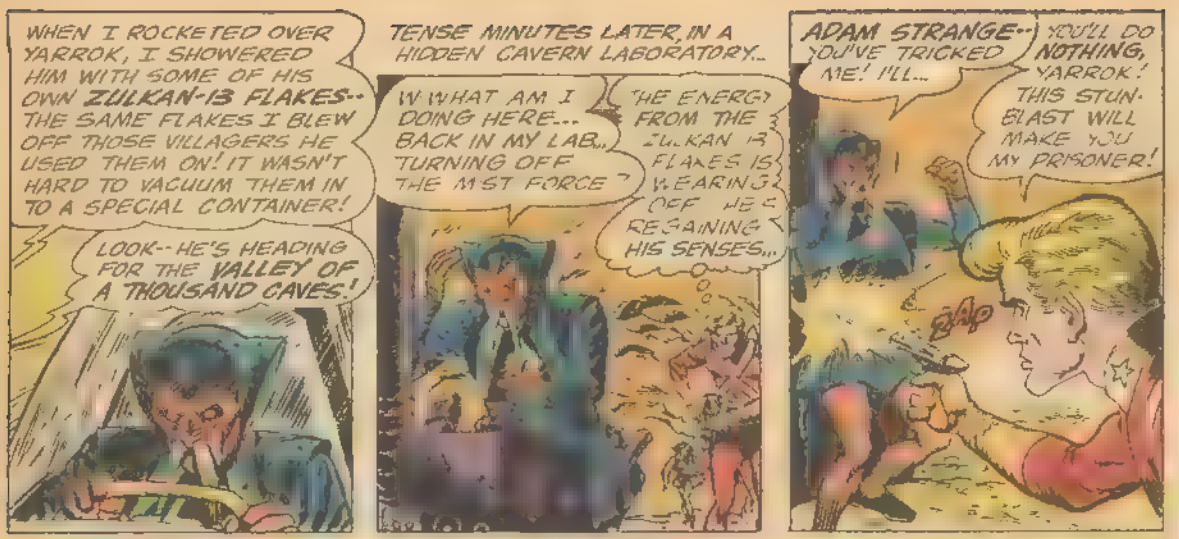


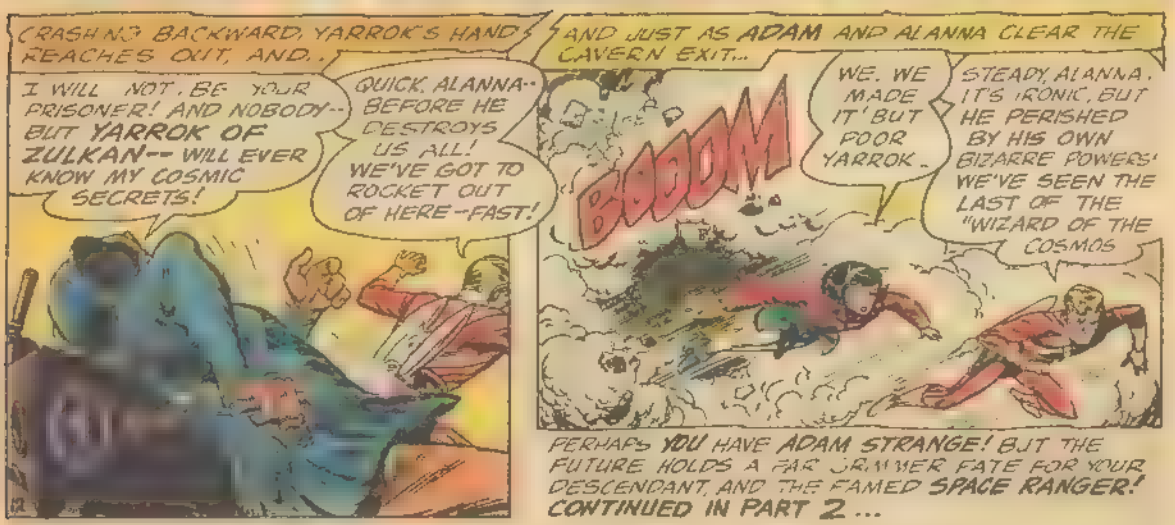

I -- I DON'T KNOW, ALANNA -- SOME COMMON FORCE IS APPARENTLY DRIVING THEM TO RELINQUISH THEIR VALUABLES! WAIT A MINUTE -- I'VE SPOTTED SOMETHING.

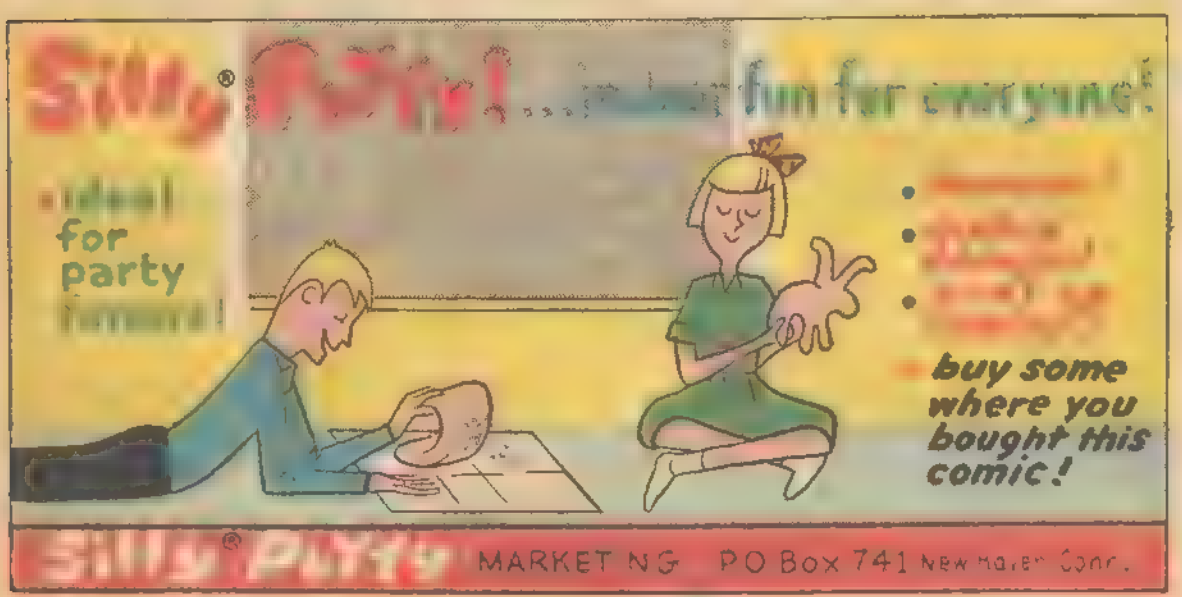
BUT I HAVE SCOOTER, ADAM
INCREDIBLE! I MUST HAVE BEEN SLEEP-WALKING!
ADAM MASTER WITH CLOAK THEY'RE COMING! I DON'T UNDERSTAND..
WHAT AM I DOING WITH MY FAMILY JEWELS?

I'VE BLOWN AWAY SMALL, FLAKE-LIKE PARTICLES I NOTICED ON ALL THE VILLAGERS, ALANNA. THEY MUST HAVE CONTAINED A MYSTERIOUS ELEMENT WHICH DROVE THEM TO THIS ACTION..
A HYPNOTIC ENERGY, TO BE EXACT EARTH MAN -- WHICH I SHOWERED UPON THE VILLAGERS IN FLAKE FORM COMPELLING THEM TO OBEY MY COMMANDS!
MY TEST WASN'T COMPLETED. THANKS TO YOUR MEDDLING ADAM STRANGE! BUT THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU INTERFERE...
YARROK.. HIT ME WITH A VIAL OF SOMETHING.
SMASH!
AND AN INSTANT LATER.
HA, HA! I'VE IMPRISONED YOU WITHIN MY E-GAS CLOUD, AND YOU WILL EXPAND WITH IT, EARTH-MAN... UNTIL YOU DISSOLVE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE...
ADAM... MUST FREE HIM.
I-I CAN'T BREAK THROUGH! OH, ADAM... ADAM...
NOTHING CAN SAVE HIM NOW! NOTHING!
SUDDENLY..
A-ADAM... HE'S DISAPPEARING BEFORE MY EYES!
ODD. HE SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED TO REMAIN VISIBLE UNTIL THE GAS DISSOLVED! HOWEVER HE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED- AND NOW, BACK TO MY WORK!
BUT MOMENTS LATER, 25 TRILLION MILES AWAY...
THE ZETA-BEAM RADIATION. IT WORE OFF, RETURNING ME TO EARTH! WHEW! I FEEL STRETCHED OUT... BUT I'M WHOLE AGAIN! THAT WAS A BREAK, BUT... BUT RANN IS AT THE MERCY OF YARROK! AND I'M STRANDED ON EARTH UNTIL THE NEXT ZETA-BEAM HITS!

IT WILL BE FORTY HOURS, TEN MINUTES AND NINE SECONDS, BEFORE I CAN MAKE ANOTHER Z-BEAM CONTACT! IF ONLY RANN CAN DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST YARROK UNTIL I GET THERE-- I THINK I KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT HIM!
ZERO HOUR FOR THE ZETA-BEAM! AND AS AN ANXIOUS ADAM STRANGE RETURNS TO RANN..
A-ALANNA! WHY THE FUR JACKET? IT'S MID-SUMMER HERE ON RANN!
YARROK HAS COME OUT INTO THE OPEN HE'S IN RANAGAR CITY DEMANDING ANOTHER TRIBUTE FROM US! AND WE DARE NOT ATTACK HIM, ADAM--
OOK
ONE OF HIS STRANGE FORCES HAS CREATED AN IMMOVABLE, IMPENETRABLE MIST WHICH IS BLOTTING OUT THE DOUBLE SUNS' RAYS! RANAGAR CITY WILL SOON FREEZE AND BE UNINHABITABLE WITHOUT SOLAR HEAT..
NOT IF THE PLAN I HAVE IN MIND WORKS, ALANNA! I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST... MEET ME IN RANAGAR!
SHORTLY, AS THE WOULD-BE "WIZARD OF THE COSMOS" CONFRONTS THE DOOMED CITY..
CITIZENS OF RANAGAR DELAY NO LONGER! YOU MUST--
HUH?
YOU... ADAM STRANGE... ALIVE! THEN... MY E-GAS CLOUD DIDN'T ELIMINATE YOU!
NO - AND YOU'RE THROUGH, PAL... YOU WILL LEAD US TO YOUR SECRET LAB AT ONCE WHERE YOU WILL DISSOLVE THIS MIST!
ADAM IS MAD! YARROK WILL DESTROY HIM!
BUT TO THE BEWILDERMENT OF ALL...
GREAT STARS! YARROK IS OBEYING ADAM STRANGE'S COMMAND! BUT WHY?
C'MON ALANNA, I'LL EXPLAIN AS WE FOLLOW YARROK!


WHEN I ROCKETED OVER YARROK, I SHOWERED HIM WITH SOME OF HIS OWN ZULKAN-13 FLAKES-- THE SAME FLAKES I BLEW OFF THOSE VILLAGERS HE USED THEM ON! IT WASN'T HARD TO VACUUM THEM IN TO A SPECIAL CONTAINER!
LOOK-- HE'S HEADING FOR THE VALLEY OF A THOUSAND CAVES!
TENSE MINUTES LATER, IN A HIDDEN CAVERN LABORATORY...
WHAT AM I DOING HERE... BACK IN MY LAB... TURNING OFF THE MIST FORCE
THE ENERGY FROM THE ZULKAN 13 FLAKES IS WEARING OFF HE'S REGAINING HIS SENSES...
ADAM STRANGE-- YOU'VE TRICKED ME! I'LL...
YOU'LL DO NOTHING, YARROK! THIS STUN-BLAST WILL MAKE YOU MY PRISONER!
BAP


CRASHING BACKWARD, YARROK'S HAND REACHES OUT, AND...
I WILL NOT BE YOUR PRISONER! AND NOBODY-- BUT YARROK OF ZULKAN-- WILL EVER KNOW MY COSMIC SECRETS!
QUICK, ALANNA-- BEFORE HE DESTROYS US ALL! WE'VE GOT TO ROCKET OUT OF HERE--FAST!
AND JUST AS ADAM AND ALANNA CLEAR THE CAVERN EXIT...
BOOOM
WE, WE MADE IT! BUT POOR YARROK.
STEADY, ALANNA. IT'S IRONIC, BUT HE PERISHED BY HIS OWN BIZARRE POWERS! WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THE "WIZARD OF THE COSMOS
PERHAPS YOU HAVE ADAM STRANGE! BUT THE FUTURE HOLDS A FAR GRIMMER FATE FOR YOUR DESCENDANT, AND THE FAMED SPACE RANGER!
CONTINUED IN PART 2 ...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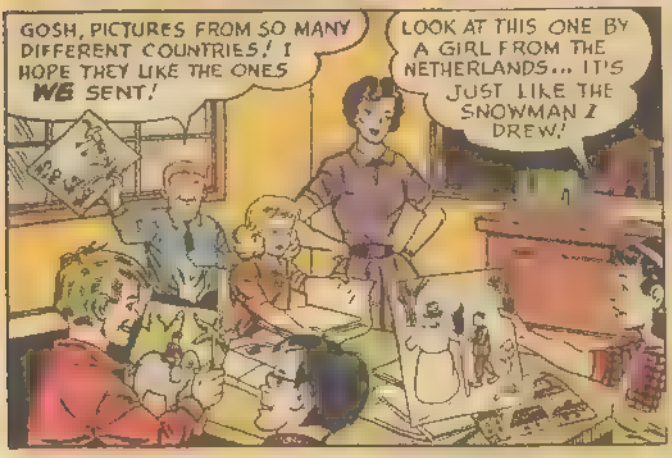
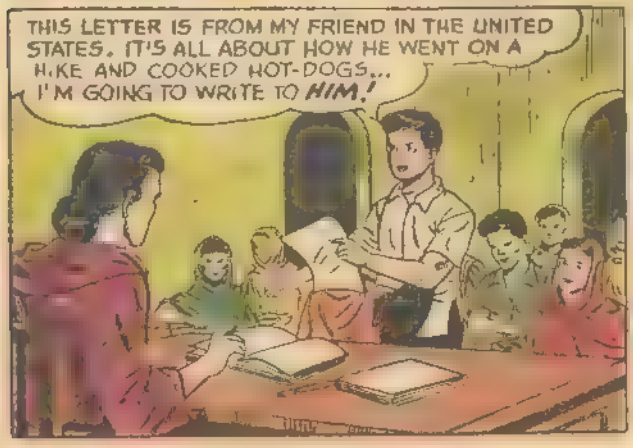
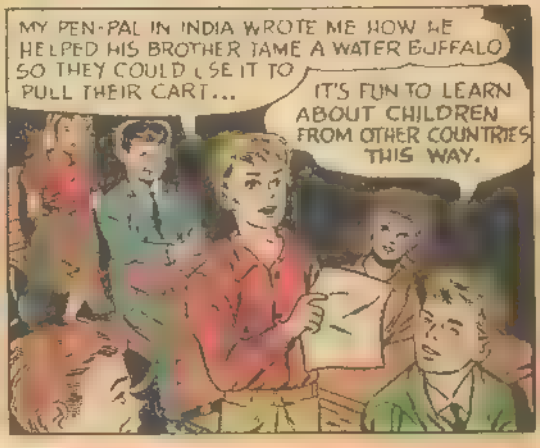
FRIENDS ACROSS THE SEAS


GOSH, PICTURES FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES! I HOPE THEY LIKE THE ONES WE SENT!
LOOK AT THIS ONE BY A GIRL FROM THE NETHERLANDS... IT'S JUST LIKE THE SNOWMAN I DREW!

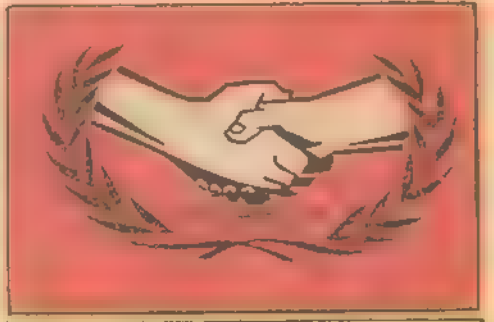
HERE'S A GREAT ONE FROM INDIA BY A BOY MY AGE!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE TO HIM, JIM, AND TELL HIM ABOUT SOME OF YOUR ACTIVITIES HERE...


THIS LETTER IS FROM MY FRIEND IN THE UNITED STATES. IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW HE WENT ON A HIKE AND COOKED HOT-DOGS... I'M GOING TO WRITE TO HIM!


MY PEN-PAL IN INDIA WROTE ME HOW HE HELPED HIS BROTHER TAME A WATER BUFFALO SO THEY COULD USE IT TO PULL THEIR CART...
IT'S FUN TO LEARN ABOUT CHILDREN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THIS WAY.

YES, YOU'LL GET TO UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT CULTURES AND CUSTOMS—AND YOU'LL ALSO FIND OUT HOW MANY INTERESTS YOU HAVE IN COMMON!

1965 IS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION YEAR, CELEBRATING THE 20th ANNIVERSARY of the UNITED NATIONS...



ASK YOUR TEACHER HOW **YOU** CAN EXCHANGE PICTURES OR BECOME A PEN-PAL WITH SOMEBODY FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. **YOU**, TOO, CAN HAVE A FRIEND ACROSS THE SEAS!

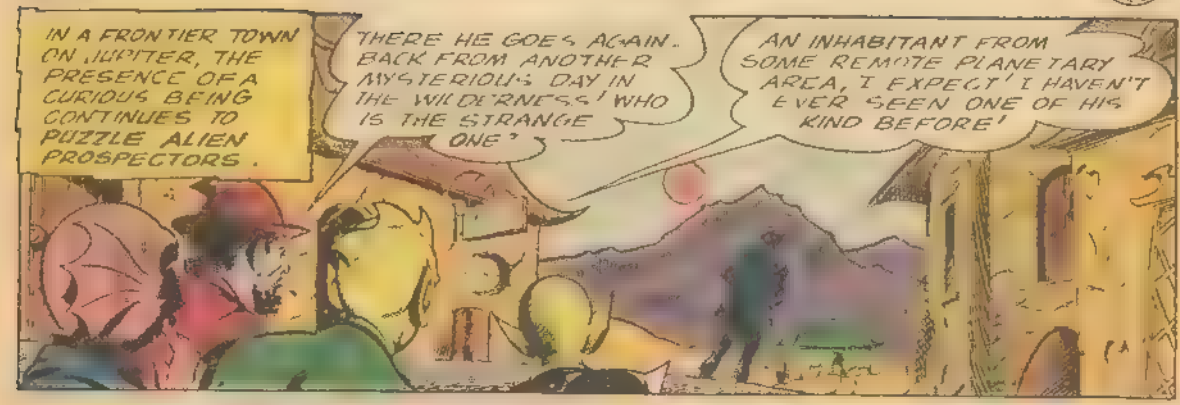
PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U S

THE PLANET PALS
CRASH
HENRY BOLTINOFF
WE CRASH-LANDED! HOW WILL WE EVER GET BACK TO EARTH FROM THIS PLANET?
AT LEAST THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET- AND CIVILIZED!
U-DRIVE-IT MISSILES
LOOK! WE CAN RENT A MISSILE AND FLY BACK HOME!
ARE YOU KIDDING? WE'RE 50 MILLION MILES AWAY. THAT'LL COST US $500,000!
U-DRIVE MISSILES 10¢ A MILE
It started with The FLASH!
Then came GREEN LANTERN--
The ATOM--HAWKMAN!
NOW...
IN THE GRAND TRADITION OF DC'S REVIVAL OF SUPER-HEROES, COME...
Doctor FATE
HOURMAN
DON'T MISS THE EXCITING DEBUT!
SUPERMAN
DC
SOLOMON GRUNDY GOES ON A RAMPAGE!
GREEN LANTERN
NOW ON SALE

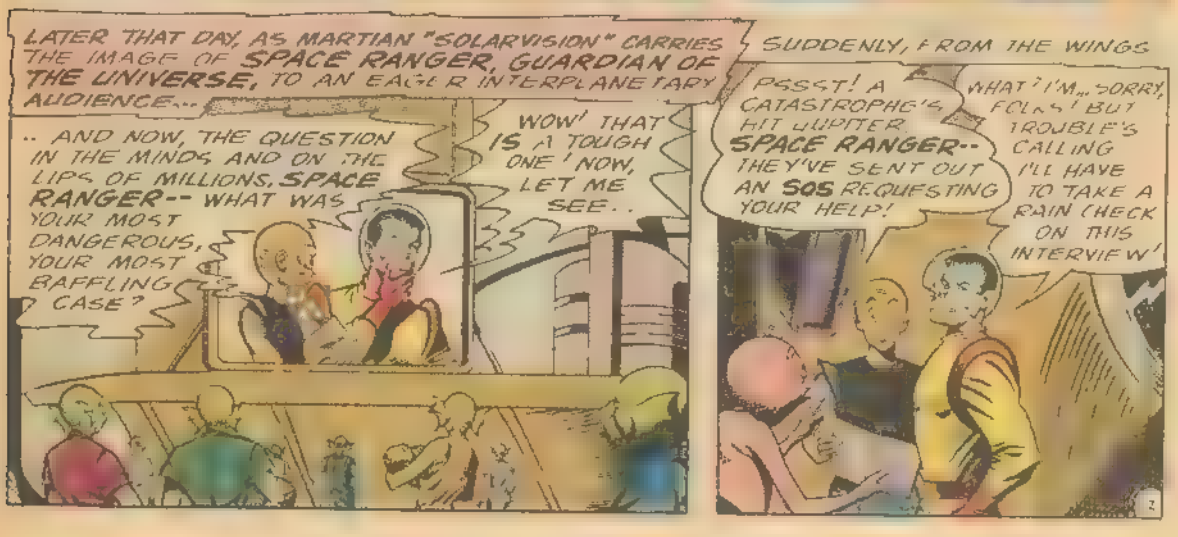
the SPACE RANGER
DIE, SPACE RANGER!
CRRAACK
YARROK'S WEIRD ENERGY FORCE HAS TURNED ADAM AND SPACE RANGER INTO ENEMIES - THEY'RE ATTACKING ONE ANOTHER! AND... I CAN'T STOP THEM!
PART 2

IMPOSSIBLE - YET, APPARENTLY TRUE! FROM "ANCIENT TIMES" THE INFAMOUS **WIZARD OF THE COSMOS** APPEARS TO PLAGUE THE UNIVERSE CENTURIES LATER! AND TO COMBAT THIS ALL POWERFUL VILLAIN, **SPACE RANGER** AND **ADAM STRANGE'S** DESCENDANT ONCE AGAIN TEAM UP ON DISTANT RANN -- THIS TIME TO THWART...

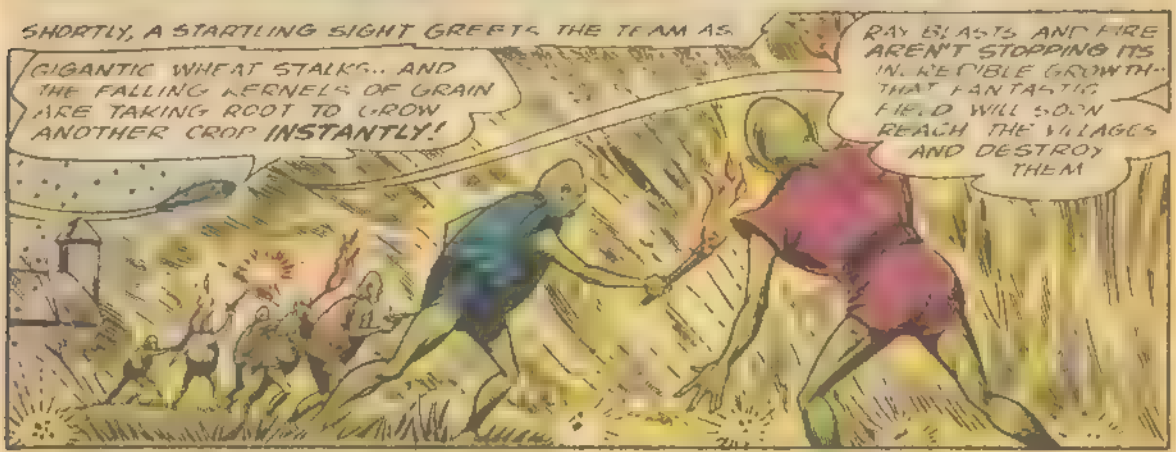
the RETURN of YARROK of ZUKAN

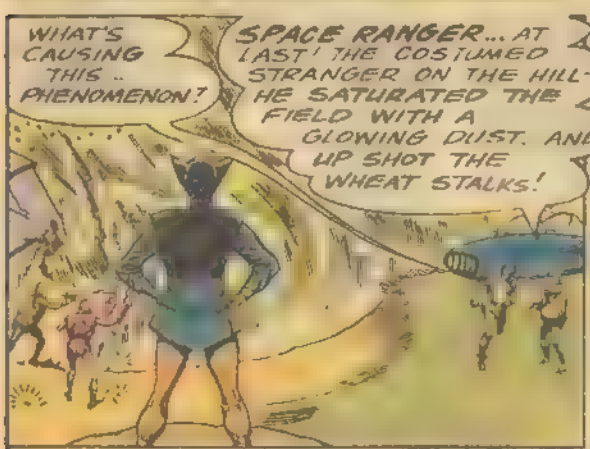

IN A FRONTIER TOWN ON JUPITER, THE PRESENCE OF A CURIOUS BEING CONTINUES TO PUZZLE ALIEN PROSPECTORS.
THERE HE GOES AGAIN.. BACK FROM ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS DAY IN THE WILDERNESS! WHO IS THE STRANGE ONE?
AN INHABITANT FROM SOME REMOTE PLANETARY AREA, I EXPECT! I HAVEN'T EVER SEEN ONE OF HIS KIND BEFORE!

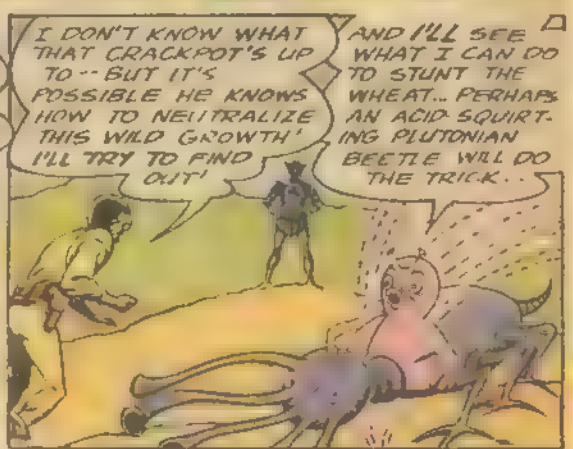
THE LIGHT IN HIS SHACK BURNS THE NIGHT LONG! WHAT DOES HE DO BEHIND ITS WALLS..?
THE JUICE OF THE JOVIAN SWAMP PADS... I'M SURE IT IS THE FINAL INGREDIENT I SEEK! IT MUST BE.
SHORTLY..
AH A CHEMICAL REACTION AT LAST! IT IS THE FINAL INGREDIENT I NEED FOR THIS LAST EXPERIMENT! I WILL PUT IT TO THE TEST ON A LARGE SCALE, AT ONCE--AND IF SUCCESSFUL...
THE WIZARD OF THE COSMOS WILL LIVE AGAIN! HA, HA, HA!

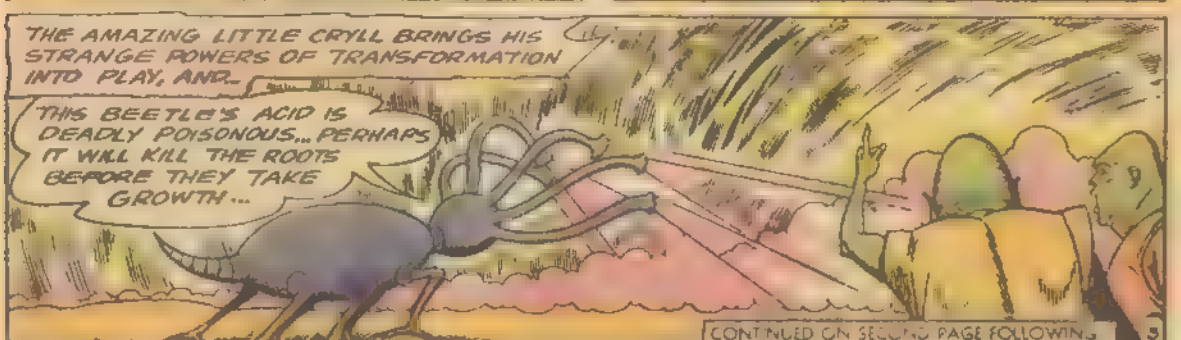

LATER THAT DAY, AS MARTIAN "SOLARVISION" CARRIES THE IMAGE OF SPACE RANGER, GUARDIAN OF THE UNIVERSE, TO AN EAGER INTERPLANETARY AUDIENCE...
.. AND NOW, THE QUESTION IN THE MINDS AND ON THE LIPS OF MILLIONS, SPACE RANGER-- WHAT WAS YOUR MOST DANGEROUS, YOUR MOST BAFFLING CASE?
WOW! THAT IS A TOUGH ONE! NOW, LET ME SEE..
SUDDENLY, FROM THE WINGS
PSSST! A CATASTROPHE'S HIT JUPITER SPACE RANGER-- THEY'VE SENT OUT AN SOS REQUESTING YOUR HELP!
WHAT? I'M... SORRY, FOLKS! BUT TROUBLE'S CALLING I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THIS INTERVIEW!

WITHIN MINUTES, THE SOLAR KING, SWIFTEST SPACE SHIP IN THE UNIVERSE, SPEEDS SPACE RANGER AND HIS LITTLE ASSISTANT, CRYLL, TO JUPITER...
THE JOVIAN REPORT WAS REAL WEIRD -- SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A WHEAT FIELD GOING ON A GROWTH RAMPAGE ..
THAT DOES SOUND WILD, CRYLL! WE'LL TAKE AN AIR CRUISER TO THE FARM FROM THE JUPITER CITY SPACE-PORT!


SHORTLY, A STARTLING SIGHT GREETS THE TEAM AS
GIGANTIC WHEAT STALKS.. AND THE FALLING KERNELS OF GRAIN ARE TAKING ROOT TO GROW ANOTHER CROP INSTANTLY!
RAY BLASTS AND FIRE AREN'T STOPPING ITS INCREDIBLE GROWTH.. THAT FANTASTIC FIELD WILL SOON REACH THE VILLAGES AND DESTROY THEM


WHAT'S CAUSING THIS .. PHENOMENON?
SPACE RANGER... AT LAST! THE COSTUMED STRANGER ON THE HILL -- HE SATURATED THE FIELD WITH A GLOWING DUST. AND UP SHOT THE WHEAT STALKS!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT CRACKPOT'S UP TO -- BUT IT'S POSSIBLE HE KNOWS HOW TO NEUTRALIZE THIS WILD GROWTH! I'LL TRY TO FIND OUT!
AND I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO STUNT THE WHEAT... PERHAPS AN ACID-SQUIRTING PLUTONIAN BEETLE WILL DO THE TRICK..


THE AMAZING LITTLE CRYLL BRINGS HIS STRANGE POWERS OF TRANSFORMATION INTO PLAY, AND..
THIS BEETLE'S ACID IS DEADLY POISONOUS... PERHAPS IT WILL KILL THE ROOTS BEFORE THEY TAKE GROWTH...
CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE FOLLOWING

The Magazine YOU Asked For!

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THE FLASH'S MASKED IDENTITY
ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
THE ATOM
SUPERBABY to SUPERBOY to SUPERMAN

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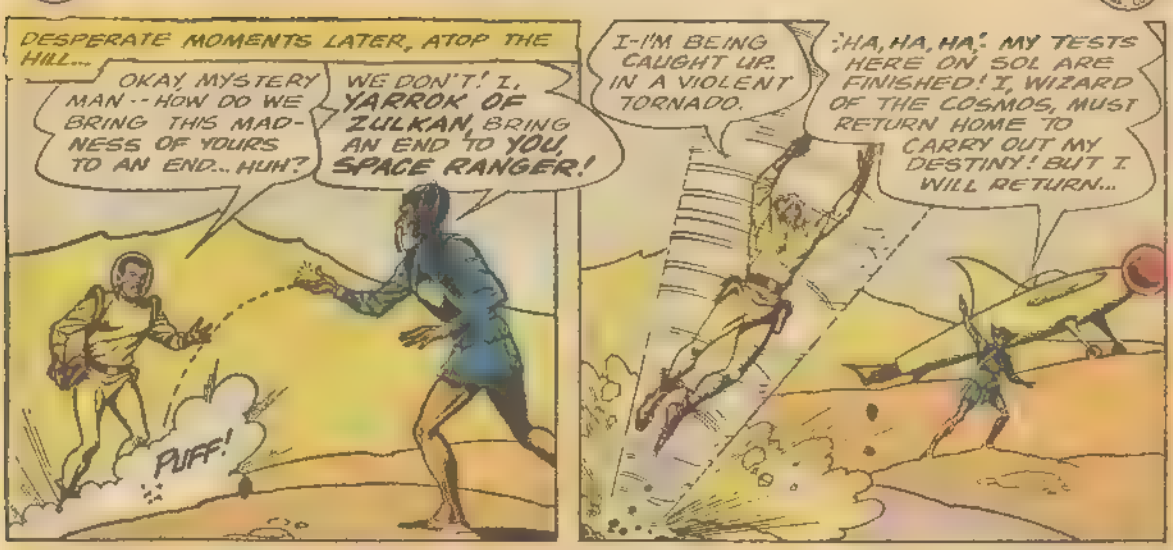
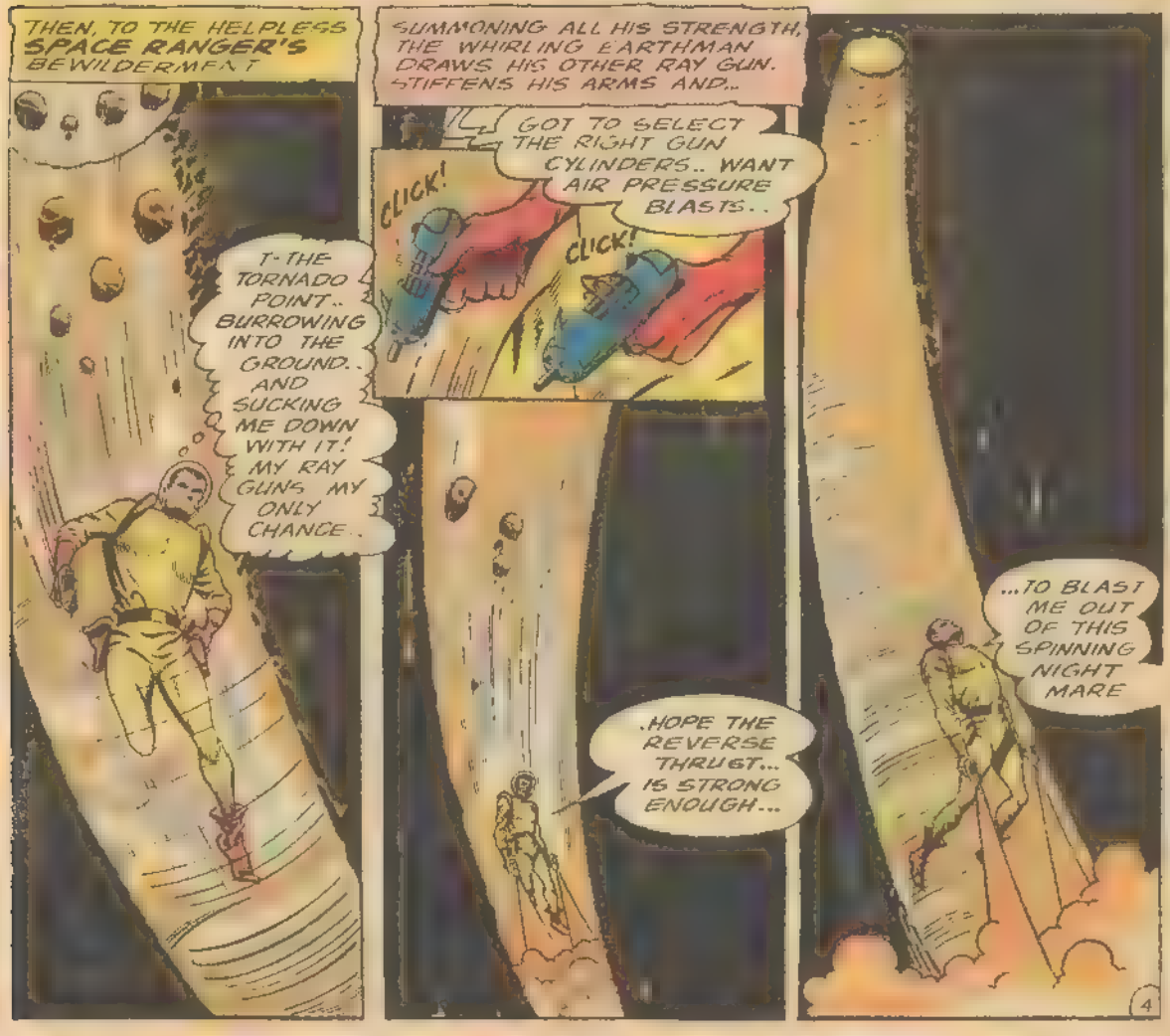
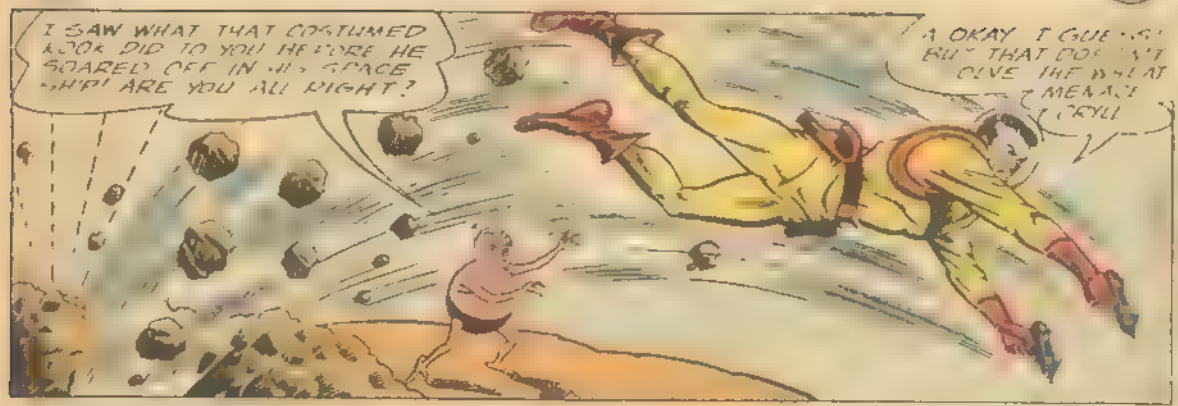
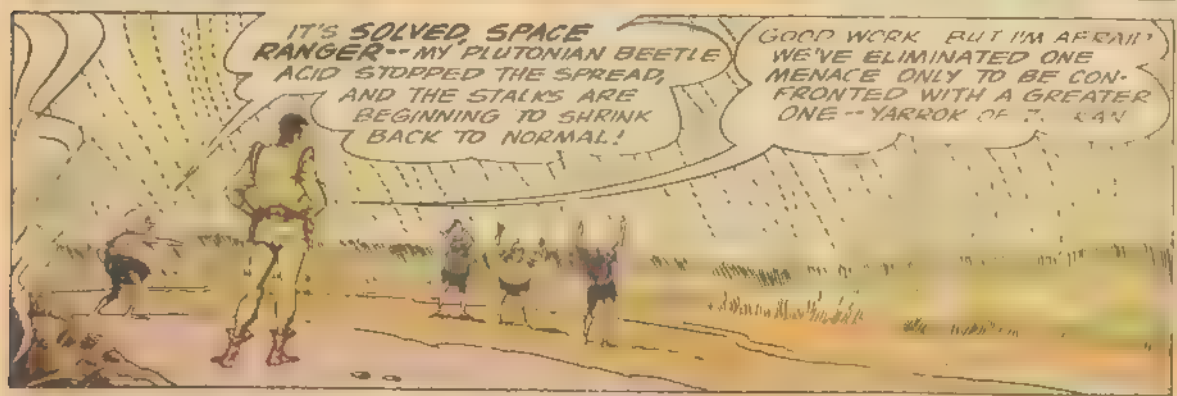
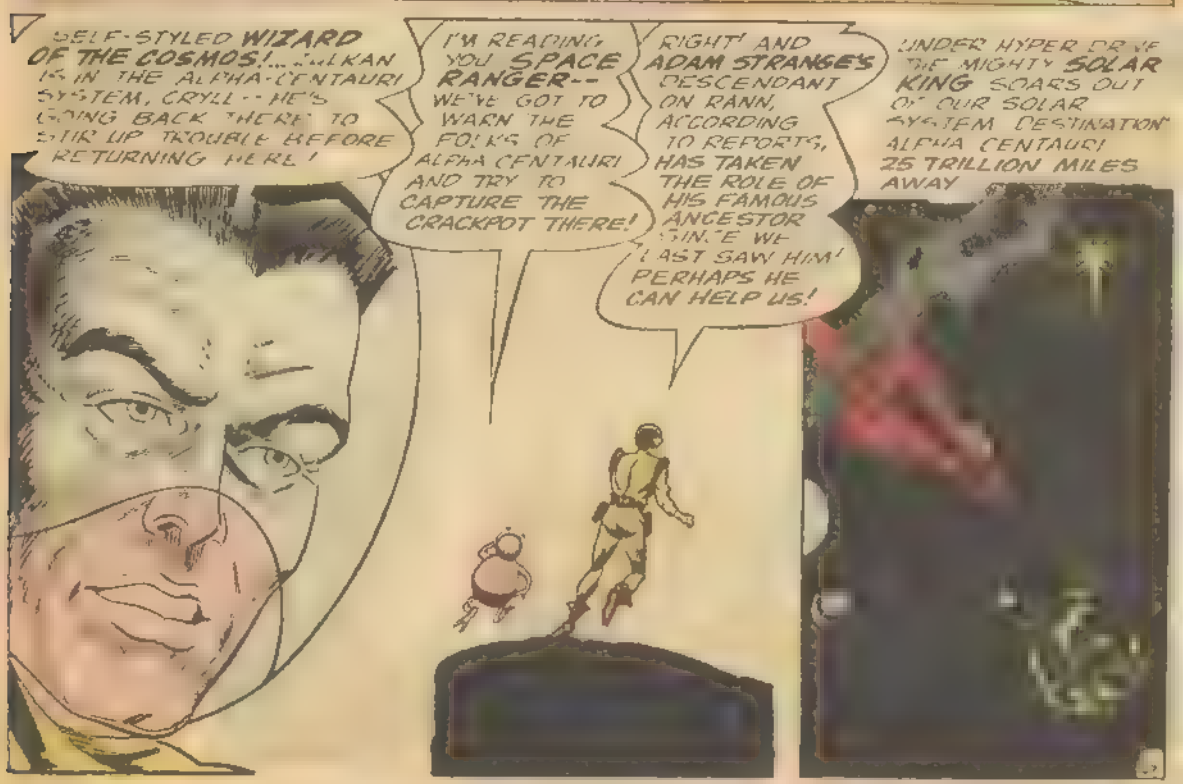
GET NEW TESTOR "BIG DADDY" ROTH FINISHES NOW! AT SHARP HOBBY DEPARTMENTS EVERYWHERE!


DESPERATE MOMENTS LATER, ATOP THE HILL...
OKAY, MYSTERY MAN -- HOW DO WE BRING THIS MADNESS OF YOURS TO AN END... HUH?
WE DON'T! I, YARROK OF ZULKAN, BRING AN END TO YOU, SPACE RANGER!
PUFF!
I-I'M BEING CAUGHT UP IN A VIOLENT TORNADO.
:HA, HA, HA!: MY TESTS HERE ON SOL ARE FINISHED! I, WIZARD OF THE COSMOS, MUST RETURN HOME TO CARRY OUT MY DESTINY! BUT I WILL RETURN...


THEN, TO THE HELPLESS SPACE RANGER'S BEWILDERMENT
I-THE TORNADO POINT.. BURROWING INTO THE GROUND.. AND SUCKING ME DOWN WITH IT! MY RAY GUNS MY ONLY CHANCE..
SUMMONING ALL HIS STRENGTH, THE WHIRLING EARTHMAN DRAWS HIS OTHER RAY GUN. STIFFENS HIS ARMS AND..
GOT TO SELECT THE RIGHT GUN CYLINDERS.. WANT AIR PRESSURE BLASTS..
CLICK!
CLICK!
.HOPE THE REVERSE THRUST... IS STRONG ENOUGH...
...TO BLAST ME OUT OF THIS SPINNING NIGHT MARE

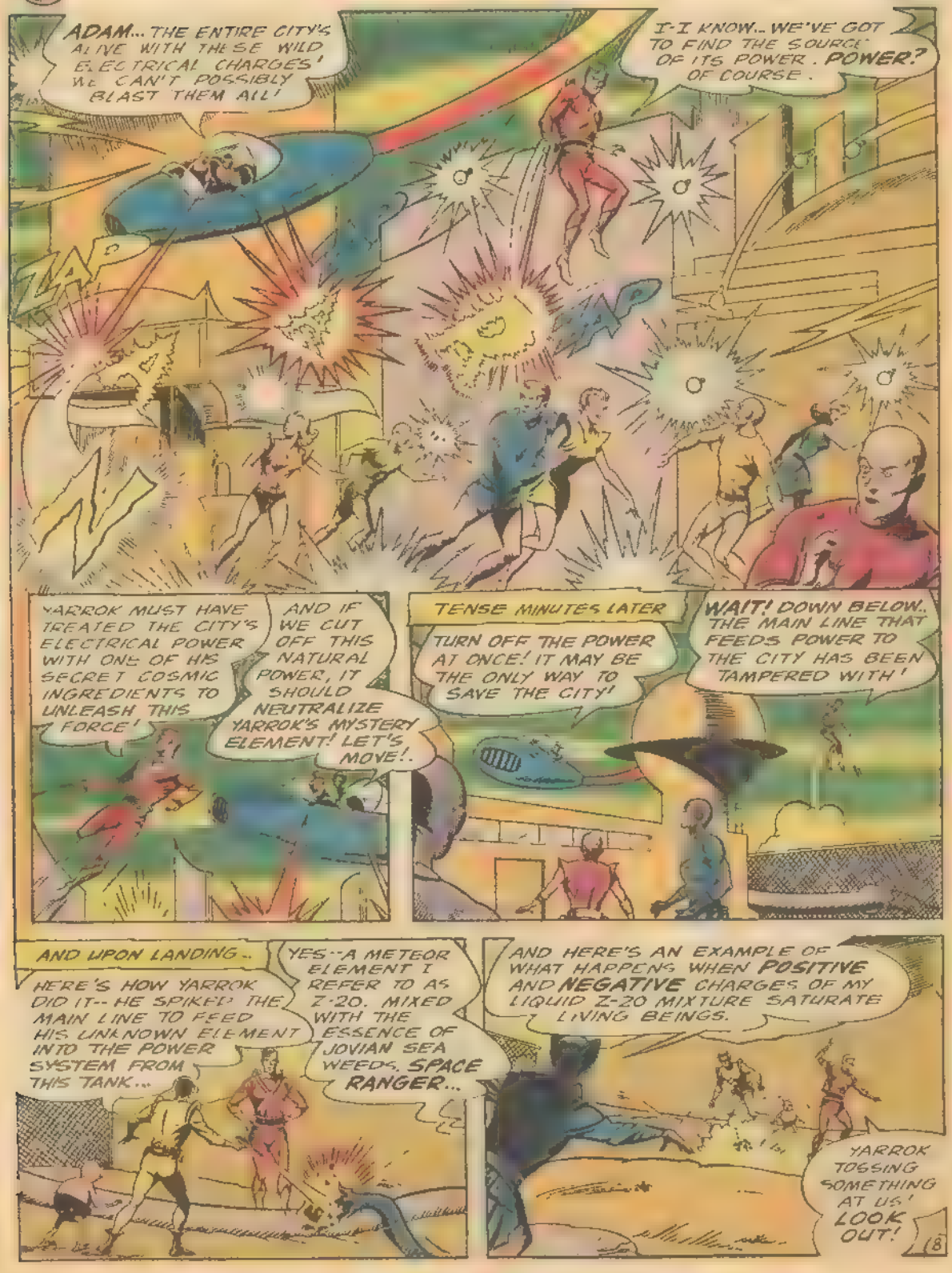

I SAW WHAT THAT COSTUMED LOOK DID TO YOU BEFORE HE SOARED OFF IN HIS SPACE SHIP! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OKAY, I GUESS! BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE THE BEAST A MEANING CRYLL!


IT'S SOLVED, SPACE RANGER--MY PLUTONIAN BEETLE ACID STOPPED THE SPREAD, AND THE STALKS ARE BEGINNING TO SHRINK BACK TO NORMAL!
GOOD WORK, BUT I'M AFRAID WE'VE ELIMINATED ONE MENACE ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED WITH A GREATER ONE--YARROK OF [illegible] KAN

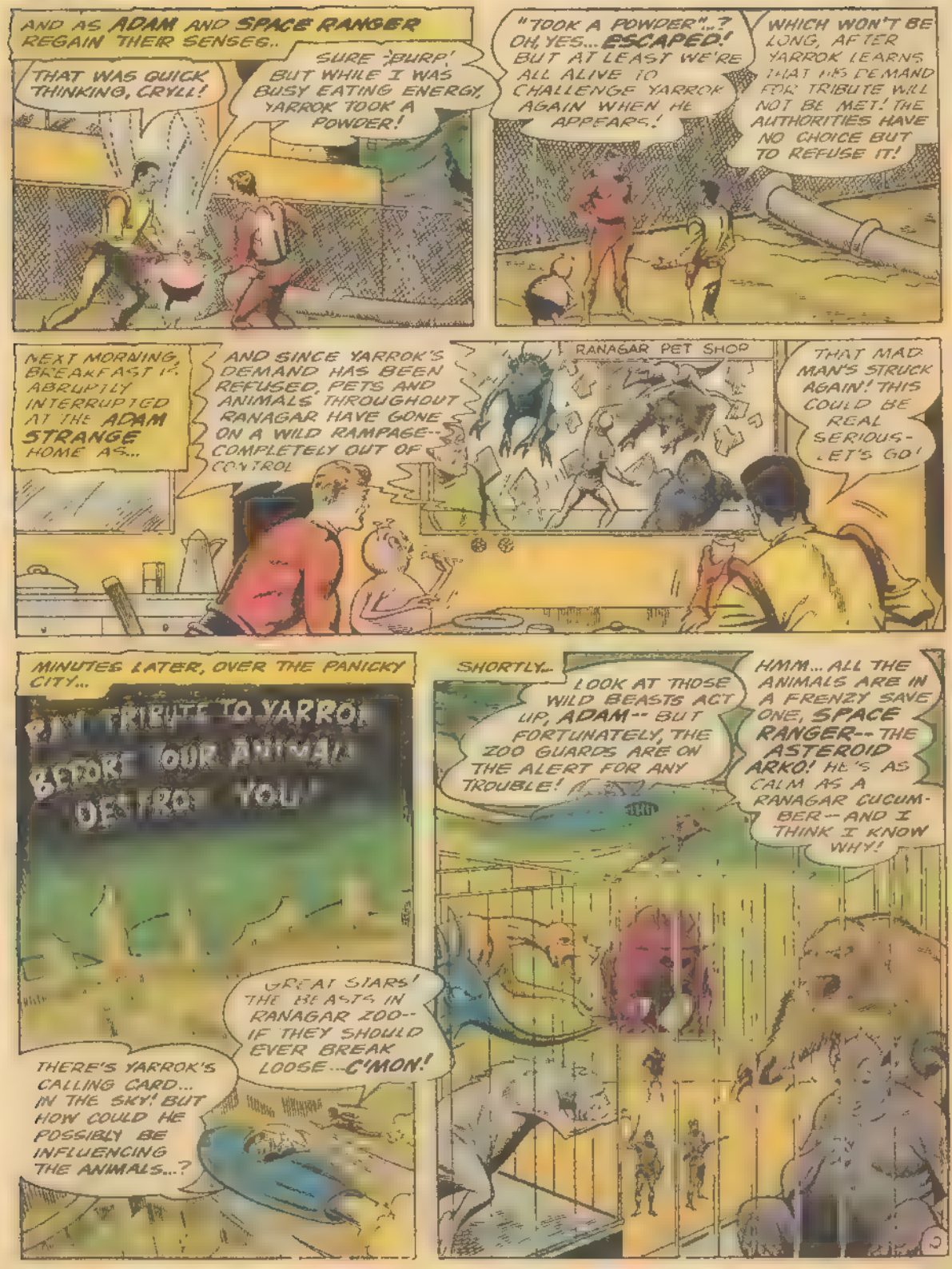

SELF-STYLED WIZARD OF THE COSMOS!... VULKAN IS IN THE ALPHA-CENTAURI SYSTEM, CRYLL--HE'S GOING BACK THERE TO STIR UP TROUBLE BEFORE RETURNING HERE!
I'M READING YOU, SPACE RANGER--WE'VE GOT TO WARN THE FOLKS OF ALPHA CENTAURI AND TRY TO CAPTURE THE CRACKPOT THERE!
RIGHT! AND ADAM STRANGE'S DESCENDANT ON RANN, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, HAS TAKEN THE ROLE OF HIS FAMOUS ANCESTOR SINCE WE LAST SAW HIM! PERHAPS HE CAN HELP US!
UNDER HYPER DRIVE THE MIGHTY SOLAR KING SOARS OUT OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, DESTINATION ALPHA CENTAURI 25 TRILLION MILES AWAY

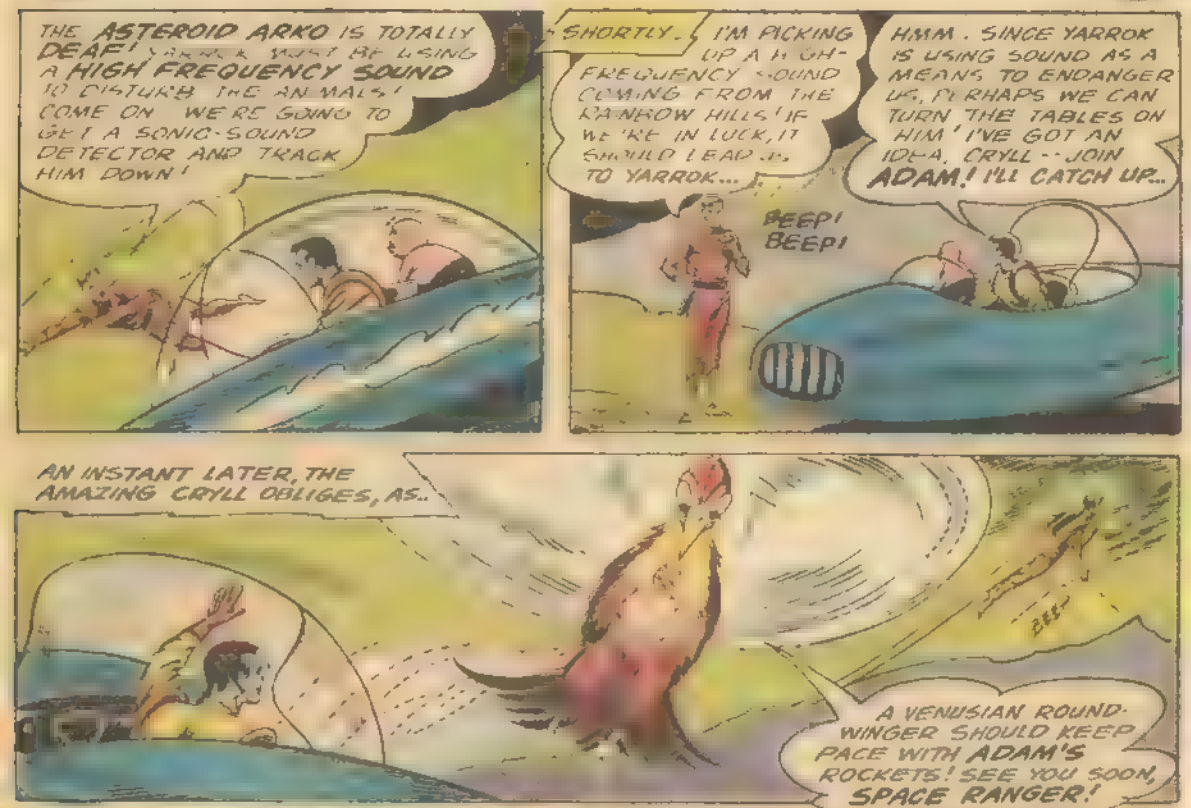
LATER, ON DISTANT RANN, A SMILE OF FRIENDSHIP CROSSES THE FACE OF ADAM STRANGE'S DESCENDANT AS...
SPACE RANGER-- MY PAL FROM SOL! IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN... EVEN THOUGH I HAVE A HUNCH TROUBLE BROUGHT YOU HERE!
I'M AFRAID SO, ADAM! TELL ME, DOES THE NAME YARROK, WIZARD OF THE COSMOS, RING A BELL WITH YOU?
I'LL SAY.. THAT WAS ONE OF MY ANCESTOR'S MOST INCREDIBLE FOES! C'MON... WE'LL REVIEW THE FILM TAPE RECORD.
SHORTLY AS ALL EYES GAZE ON THE IMAGE OF THE FAMED ADAM STRANGE OF THE PAST..
AND IN THIS CAVERN EXPLOSION, THE INFAMOUS YARROK DIED!
DIED? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE THIS YARROK CHARACTER YEARS KILLED ME BACK ON JUPITER!
BUT IF IT WAS THE SAME VILLAIN, HOW COULD HE HAVE SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION... TO SAY NOTHING OF A LIFE SPAN OF CENTURIES?
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ANOTHER ANCIENT RECORD IS BEING REVIEWED IN A REMOTE AREA OF ZULKAN..
MY ANCESTOR, YARROK, HAD NOT FOUND THE PROPER INGREDIENTS IN ALPHA-CENTAURI TO ACTIVATE ALL THE RARE MINERALS AND PROPERTIES HE DISCOVERED HERE!
BUT IN THIS FUTURE ERA, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL TO OTHER STAR-SUN SYSTEMS, SUCH AS SOL, TO FIND THEM!

"THE LUCK OF THE STARS WAS WITH ME WHEN I CAME ACROSS A RECORD OF YARROK'S SECRETS IN THE CELLAR OF OUR FAMILY HOME HERE ON ZULKAN.."
A CHEST.. SECRETED BEHIND THE WALL! WHAT HAVE I COME UPON ?
COME UPON, INDEED! NOW, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BECOME WIZARD OF THE COSMOS! WHAT A FITTING REVENGE! YARROK'S DESCENDANT WILL DESTROY THE DESCENDANT OF ADAM STRANGE... AND RULE THE UNIVERSE!
THAT NIGHT, JUST AFTER RANN'S DOUBLE SUNS SET IN THE GREEN SKY..
CITIZENS OF RANAGAR CITY.. YOUR ATTENTION.
THAT BOOMING VOICE... SOUNDS FAMILIAR...
..I, YARROK OF ZULKAN, RETURN TO CLAIM THE TRIBUTE DENIED MY ANCESTORS CENTURIES AGO!
YARROK'S IMAGE... APPEARING IN THE SKY JUST AS IT DID IN ADAM STRANGE'S DAY! LET'S GET INTO THE CITY -- FAST!
FIVE TENSE MINUTES LATER
HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF MY POWERS -- A SAMPLE OF YOUR FATE IF MY DEMAND IS NOT MET HA, HA, HA!
R
YARROK'S IMAGE.. FADING AWAY! BUT HE'S SOMEHOW RELEASED THE ENERGY FROM ELECTRICAL OUTLETS..
ELECTRIC ENERGY RUNNING RAMPANT A SINGLE CHARGE COULD KILL! LET'S SWING INTO ACTION, SPACE RANGER..

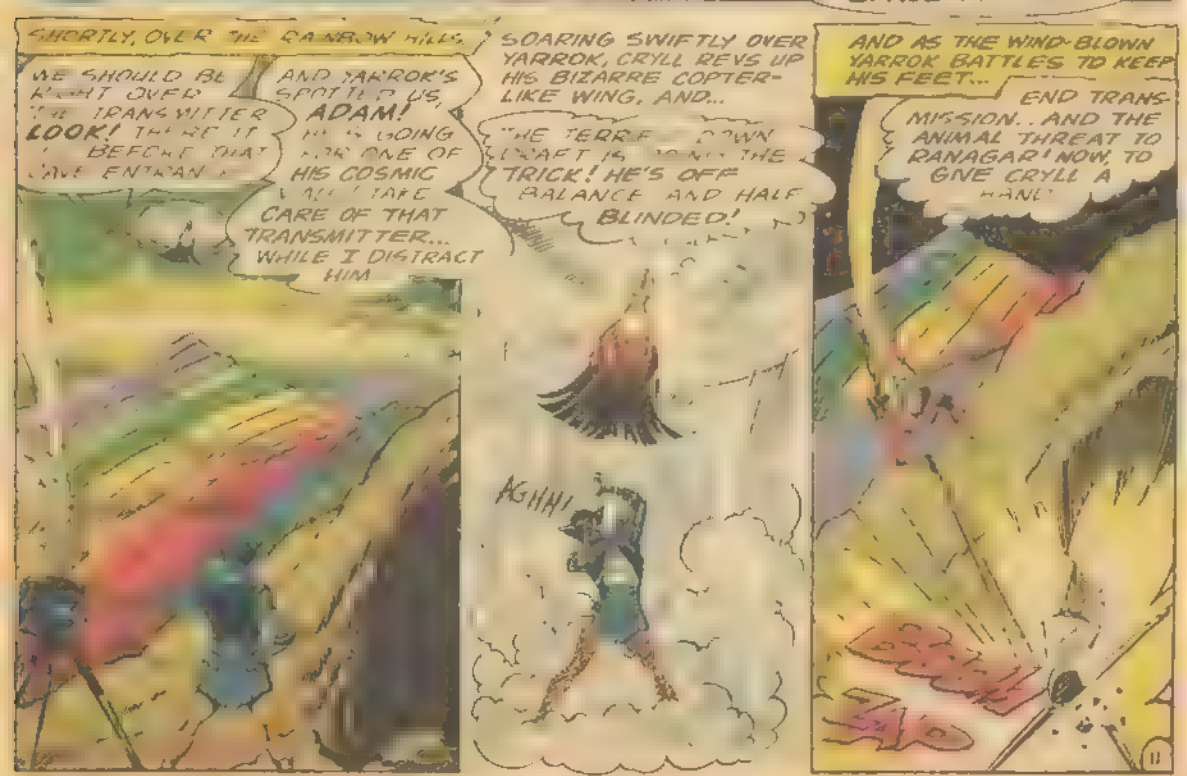

ADAM... THE ENTIRE CITY'S ALIVE WITH THESE WILD ELECTRICAL CHARGES! WE CAN'T POSSIBLY BLAST THEM ALL!
I-I KNOW.. WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE SOURCE OF ITS POWER. POWER? OF COURSE.
ZAP
ZAP
YARROK MUST HAVE TREATED THE CITY'S ELECTRICAL POWER WITH ONE OF HIS SECRET COSMIC INGREDIENTS TO UNLEASH THIS FORCE!
AND IF WE CUT OFF THIS NATURAL POWER, IT SHOULD NEUTRALIZE YARROK'S MYSTERY ELEMENT! LET'S MOVE!.
TENSE MINUTES LATER
TURN OFF THE POWER AT ONCE! IT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THE CITY!
WAIT! DOWN BELOW.. THE MAIN LINE THAT FEEDS POWER TO THE CITY HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH!
AND UPON LANDING..
HERE'S HOW YARROK DID IT-- HE SPIKED THE MAIN LINE TO FEED HIS UNKNOWN ELEMENT INTO THE POWER SYSTEM FROM THIS TANK...
YES--A METEOR ELEMENT I REFER TO AS Z-20. MIXED WITH THE ESSENCE OF JOVIAN SEA WEEDS, SPACE RANGER...
AND HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHARGES OF MY LIQUID Z-20 MIXTURE SATURATE LIVING BEINGS.
YARROK TOSSING SOMETHING AT US! LOOK OUT!

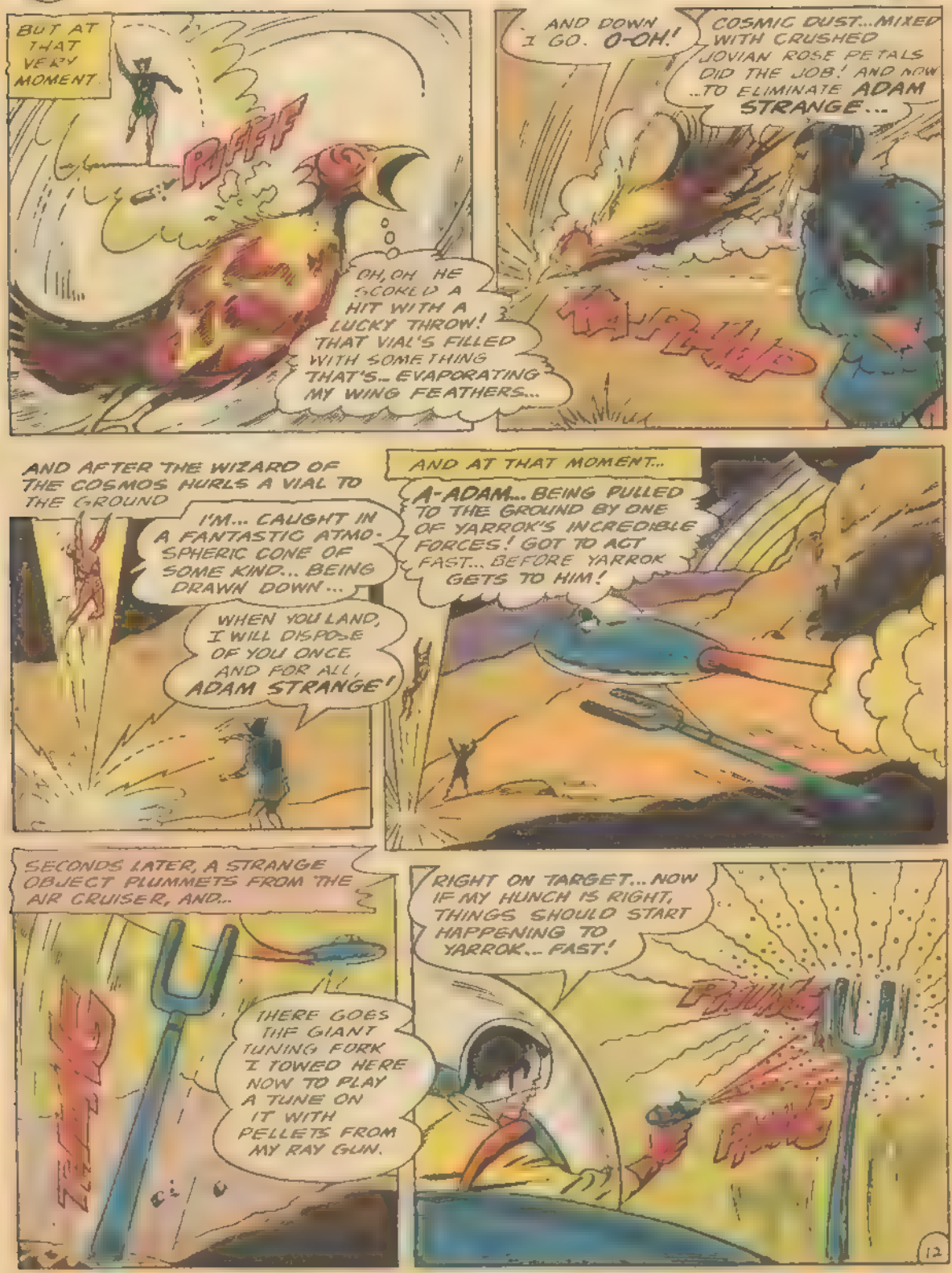
BUT ADAM'S WARNING COMES TOO LATE AND
:HA, HA! I'VE MADE YOU MORTAL ENEMIES--YOU WILL ATTACK AND DESTROY ONE ANOTHER! :HA, HA HA!
THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING! THEY'RE USING THEIR ENERGY FORCES AS WEAPONS AGAINST EACH OTHER!
GOT TO STOP THEM.. PERHAPS A PLUTONIAN ERG-EATER WILL DO THE TRICK.. IT FEEDS ON ENERGY!
AN INSTANT LATER, AS THE TWO SPACE HEROES LUNGE TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER ONCE AGAIN..
DIE, SPACE RANGER!
I'LL DESTROY YOU, ADAM STRANGE!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT AH MY MAGNETIC RODS ARE BEGINNING TO PICK UP ENERGY
SUDDENLY..
:GULP! I--I DID IT... FED ON BOTH THEIR ENERGY FORCES! BUT THE MIXTURE GAVE ME "INDIGESTION"... :BURP!
9

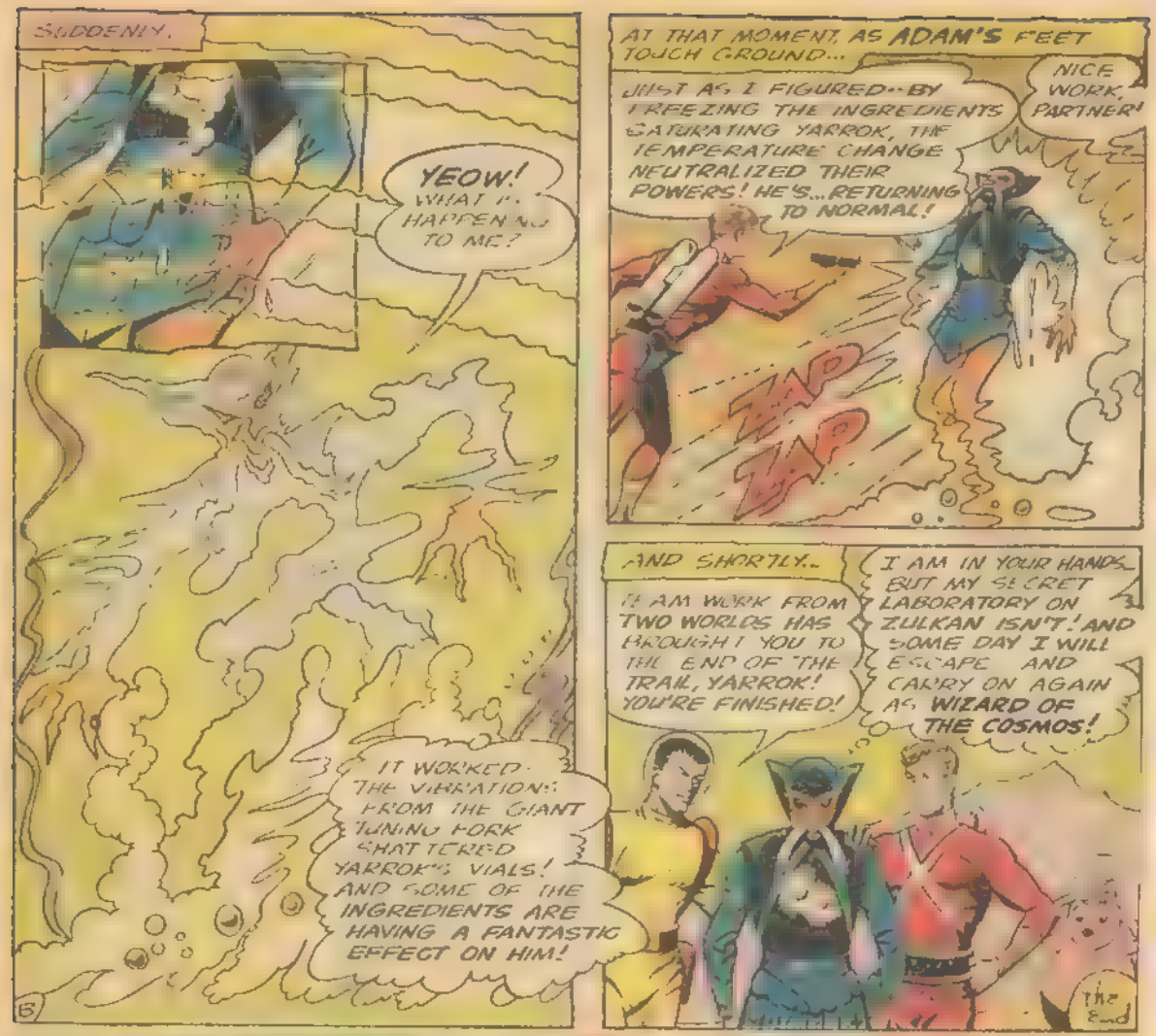

AND AS ADAM AND SPACE RANGER REGAIN THEIR SENSES..
THAT WAS QUICK THINKING, CRYLL!
SURE ! BURP! BUT WHILE I WAS BUSY EATING ENERGY, YARROK TOOK A POWDER!
"TOOK A POWDER"..? OH, YES... ESCAPED! BUT AT LEAST WE'RE ALL ALIVE TO CHALLENGE YARROK AGAIN WHEN HE APPEARS!
WHICH WON'T BE LONG, AFTER YARROK LEARNS THAT HIS DEMAND FOR TRIBUTE WILL NOT BE MET! THE AUTHORITIES HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REFUSE IT!
NEXT MORNING, BREAKFAST IS ABRUPTLY INTERRUPTED AT THE ADAM STRANGE HOME AS...
AND SINCE YARROK'S DEMAND HAS BEEN REFUSED, PETS AND ANIMALS THROUGHOUT RANAGAR HAVE GONE ON A WILD RAMPAGE-- COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL
RANAGAR PET SHOP
THAT MAD MAN'S STRUCK AGAIN! THIS COULD BE REAL SERIOUS- LET'S GO!
MINUTES LATER, OVER THE PANICKY CITY...
PAY TRIBUTE TO YARROK BEFORE OUR ANIMALS DESTROY YOU!
GREAT STARS! THE BEASTS IN RANAGAR ZOO-- IF THEY SHOULD EVER BREAK LOOSE...C'MON!
THERE'S YARROK'S CALLING CARD... IN THE SKY! BUT HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY BE INFLUENCING THE ANIMALS...?
SHORTLY...
LOOK AT THOSE WILD BEASTS ACT UP, ADAM-- BUT FORTUNATELY, THE ZOO GUARDS ARE ON THE ALERT FOR ANY TROUBLE!
HMM... ALL THE ANIMALS ARE IN A FRENZY SAVE ONE, SPACE RANGER-- THE ASTEROID ARKO! HE'S AS CALM AS A RANAGAR CUCUMBER-- AND I THINK I KNOW WHY!


THE ASTEROID ARKO IS TOTALLY DEAF! YARROK MUST BE USING A HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND TO DISTURB THE ANIMALS! COME ON — WE'RE GOING TO GET A SONIC-SOUND DETECTOR AND TRACK HIM DOWN!
SHORTLY... I'M PICKING UP A HIGH-FREQUENCY SOUND COMING FROM THE RAINBOW HILLS! IF WE'RE IN LUCK, IT SHOULD LEAD US TO YARROK...
BEEP! BEEP!
HMM. SINCE YARROK IS USING SOUND AS A MEANS TO ENDANGER US, PERHAPS WE CAN TURN THE TABLES ON HIM! I'VE GOT AN IDEA, CRYLL — JOIN ADAM! I'LL CATCH UP...

AN INSTANT LATER, THE AMAZING CRYLL OBLIGES, AS..
A VENUSIAN ROUND-WINGER SHOULD KEEP PACE WITH ADAM'S ROCKETS! SEE YOU SOON, SPACE RANGER!


SHORTLY, OVER THE RAINBOW HILLS...
WE SHOULD BE RIGHT OVER THE TRANSMITTER — LOOK! THERE IT IS! BEFORE THAT CAVE ENTRANCE!
AND YARROK'S SPOTTED US, ADAM! HE'S GOING FOR ONE OF HIS COSMIC RAYS! TAKE CARE OF THAT TRANSMITTER... WHILE I DISTRACT HIM
SOARING SWIFTLY OVER YARROK, CRYLL REVS UP HIS BIZARRE COPTER-LIKE WING, AND...
THE TERRE[illegible] DOWN [illegible] THE TRICK! HE'S OFF BALANCE AND HALF BLINDED!
AGHH!
AND AS THE WIND-BLOWN YARROK BATTLES TO KEEP HIS FEET...
END TRANSMISSION.. AND THE ANIMAL THREAT TO RANAGAR! NOW, TO GIVE CRYLL A HAND!


BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT
PUFFF
OH, OH HE SCORED A HIT WITH A LUCKY THROW! THAT VIAL'S FILLED WITH SOMETHING THAT'S... EVAPORATING MY WING FEATHERS...
AND DOWN I GO. O-OH!
COSMIC DUST...MIXED WITH CRUSHED JOVIAN ROSE PETALS DID THE JOB! AND NOW ...TO ELIMINATE ADAM STRANGE...
AND AFTER THE WIZARD OF THE COSMOS HURLS A VIAL TO THE GROUND
I'M... CAUGHT IN A FANTASTIC ATMOSPHERIC CONE OF SOME KIND... BEING DRAWN DOWN...
WHEN YOU LAND, I WILL DISPOSE OF YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL, ADAM STRANGE!
AND AT THAT MOMENT...
A-ADAM... BEING PULLED TO THE GROUND BY ONE OF YARROK'S INCREDIBLE FORCES! GOT TO ACT FAST... BEFORE YARROK GETS TO HIM!
SECONDS LATER, A STRANGE OBJECT PLUMMETS FROM THE AIR CRUISER, AND..
THERE GOES THE GIANT TUNING FORK I TOWED HERE NOW TO PLAY A TUNE ON IT WITH PELLETS FROM MY RAY GUN.
RIGHT ON TARGET... NOW IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, THINGS SHOULD START HAPPENING TO YARROK... FAST!
PAUNG
PAUNG
12


SUDDENLY.
YEOW! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
IT WORKED! THE VIBRATIONS FROM THE GIANT TUNING FORK SHATTERED YARROK'S VIALS! AND SOME OF THE INGREDIENTS ARE HAVING A FANTASTIC EFFECT ON HIM!
AT THAT MOMENT, AS ADAM'S FEET TOUCH GROUND...
JUST AS I FIGURED--BY FREEZING THE INGREDIENTS SATURATING YARROK, THE TEMPERATURE CHANGE NEUTRALIZED THEIR POWERS! HE'S...RETURNING TO NORMAL!
NICE WORK, PARTNER!
ZAP ZAP
AND SHORTLY...
I AM WORK FROM TWO WORLDS HAS BROUGHT YOU TO THE END OF THE TRAIL, YARROK! YOU'RE FINISHED!
I AM IN YOUR HANDS, BUT MY SECRET LABORATORY ON ZULKAN ISN'T! AND SOME DAY I WILL ESCAPE AND CARRY ON AGAIN AS WIZARD OF THE COSMOS!
THE END

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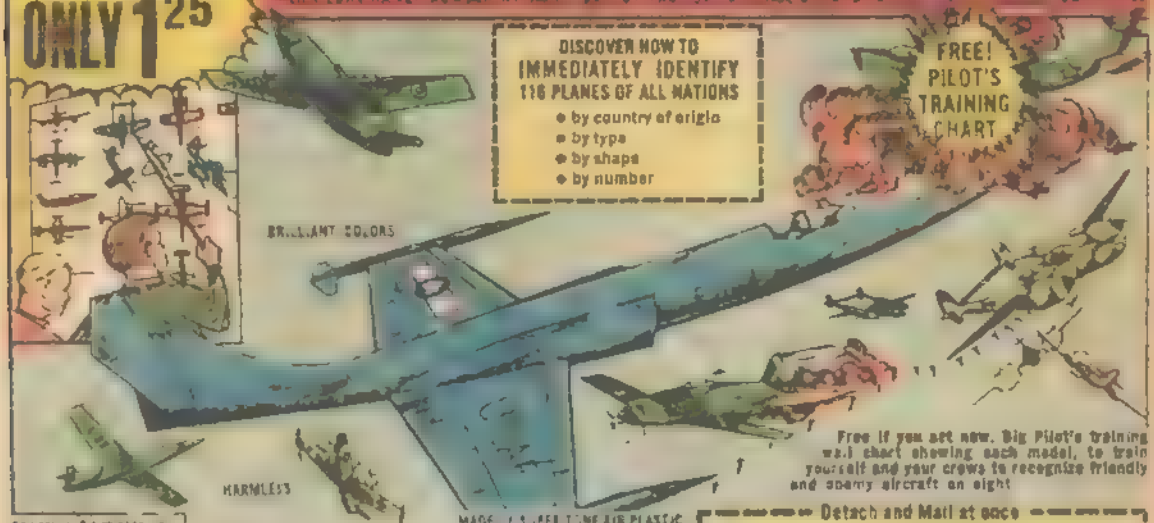

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SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

How long is an inch? For our everyday purposes, the wooden ruler suffices to give us the answer. But, as our machinery has become more and more complex, a more exact definition of the length of an inch is required.

According to the U.S. Commerce Department's National Bureau of Standards, an inch is, "41,929.399 krypton-86 orange-red wave lengths." What is krypton-86? It is a gas which emits an orange-red light. The unalterable wave length of this light is the international standard of length. And it is this light which therefore permits us to make measurements of millionths of an inch.

The importance of making such minute measurements in the space age hardly needs arguing. It has been estimated that an error of only one-millionth of an inch in the construction of a gyroscope for a missile guidance system could cause a lunar shot to race off course by perhaps 1,000 miles by the time it reaches the moon!

* * *

We have another puzzle for you: How hot is hot? Needless to say, scientists have singled out a point where "hot" begins—it is the so-called "triple point of water"—a certain temperature and a certain pressure at which water exists simultaneously as a solid, a liquid, and a gas.

This is the starting point for the temperature scale. The exact measurement is —0.01 degrees above freezing. Starting from the triple point, scientists can measure temperatures up to thousands of degrees Centigrade and down to a fraction of a degree above absolute zero.

* * *

And as long as we have you in a measuring mood, let's see what score you can make on the measuring of seconds. Give up? A second is 1/31,556,925.9747 of a tropical year. (A tropical year is the time required for the sun to pass through 360 degrees of celestial longitude—in other words, the sun's full circle motion across a field of stars.)

Since the earth wobbles and the sun is somewhat unpredictable, scientists use the tropical year as set by the exact speed the sun was traveling on New Year's eve, 1899. (But for spaceage work, even that definition is not considered accurate. For that, the National Bureau of Standards maintains an atomic clock that is accurate to—one second in 3,000 years!

To keep the whole country *on time*, the National Bureau of Standards operates its own short-wave station, carrying the tick of accurate seconds. Local power stations use this station's frequency to check the frequency of the 60-cycle current—which keeps your electric alarm clock humming away on time.

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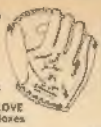

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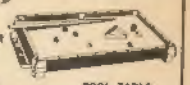

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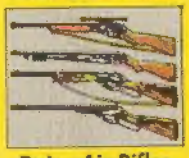
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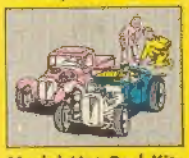
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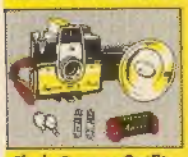
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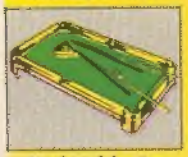
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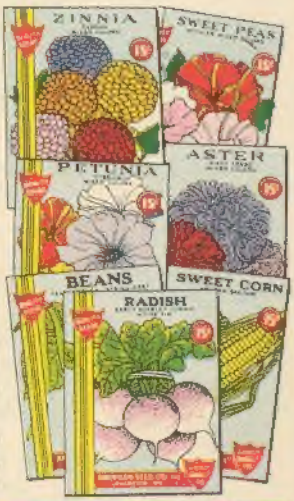

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